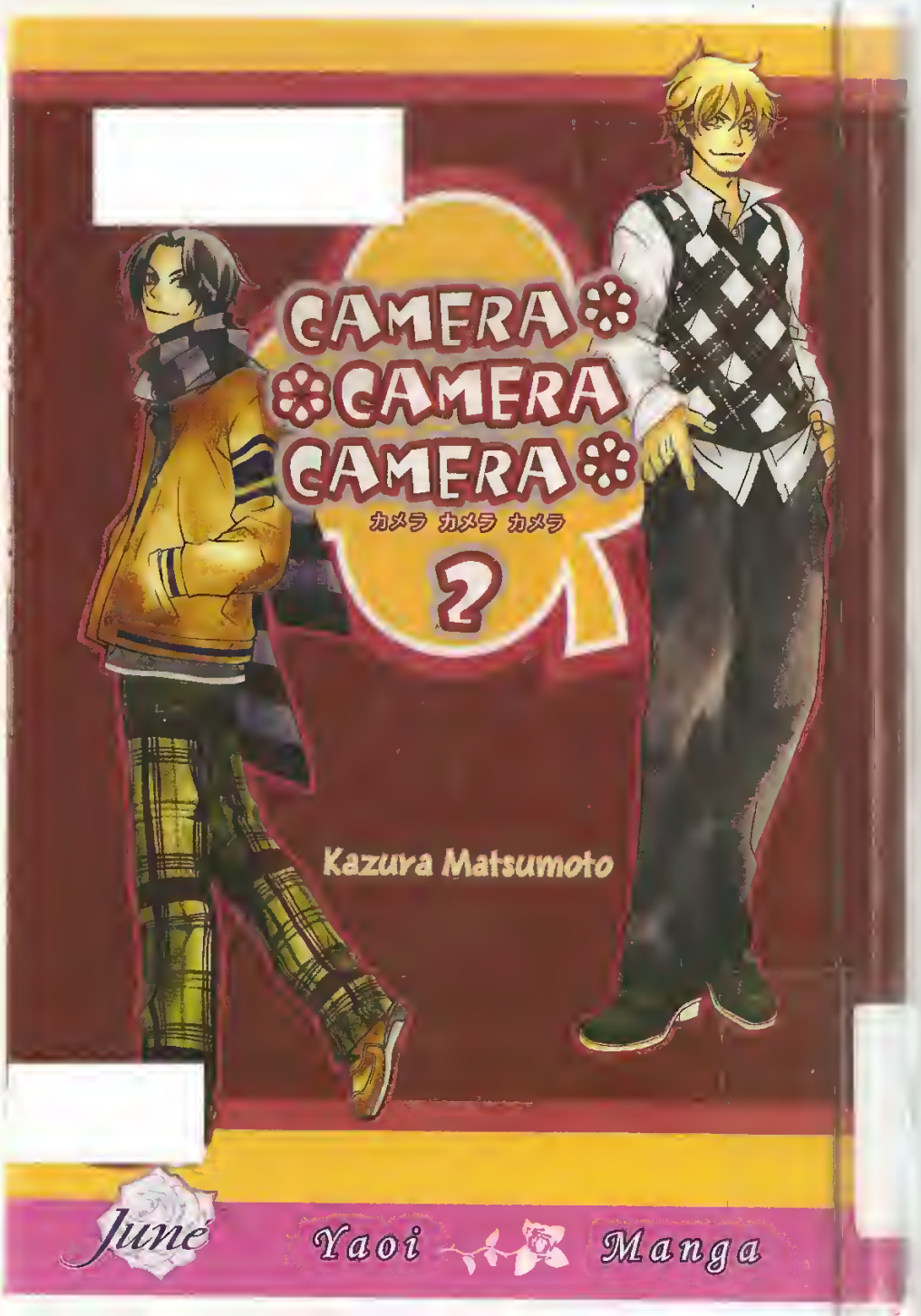
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CAMERA
CAMERA
カメラ カメラ カメラ
2
Kazura Matsumoto
June
Yaoi
Manga

CAMERA ✻ CAMERA ✻ CAMERA ✻ 2

Something's bothering Kaoru Nakahara, and Akira is determined to find out what. When a woman from Kaoru's past barges into his life, she does more than just stir up old feelings. Beneath his perky exterior, it seems Kaoru holds a dark secret, and it's the reason why he's been unable to photograph people. Determined to act on his feelings before it's too late, Akira's declared his love, but now that this woman is around, the once-eager man doesn't seem to care! Now that Kaoru's shut himself away, will Akira be able to bring out the lovable pervert in him again? Or will Kaoru's suffering remain hidden beneath his art?

Now that Akira is certain that the one he loves is Kaoru, the hard part should be over, right? Wrong! Camera Camera Camera is one boy's story of being thrust into the world of adults with no map. As this high-schooler bears witness to the hardships of love and the weight of reality, he realizes that love certainly doesn't work the way he thought it did. He's just going to have to sort out this whole mess—affairs, threesomes, and a reckless past—and who knows, he might just grow up in the process!

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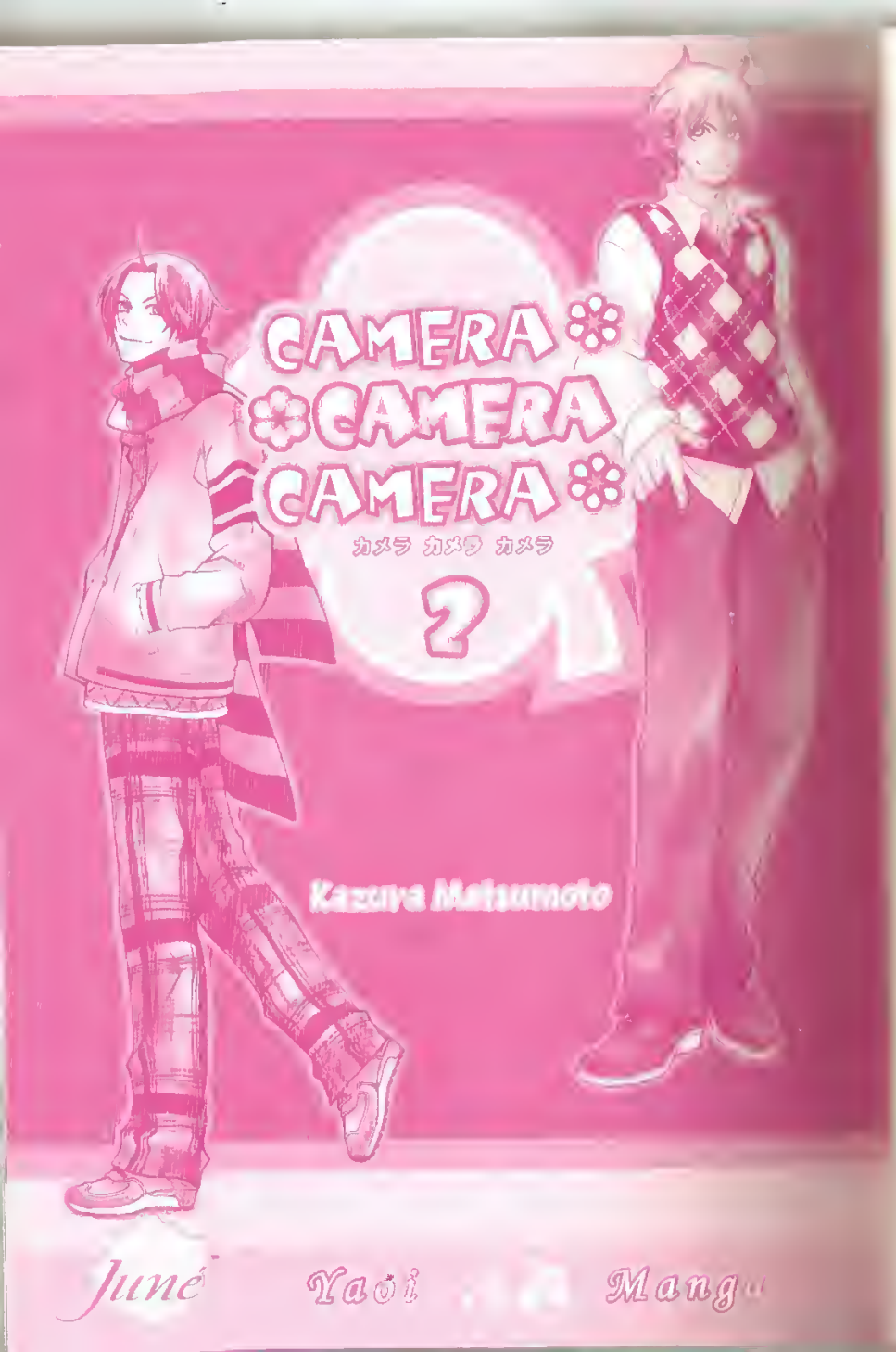
NATIVE MANGA
READ RIGHT TO LEFT

June by DMP
junemanga.com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Kazuya Matsumoto
Juné
Yaoi
Manga

CAMERA
CAMERA
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2
Kazura Matsumoto
June

Camera Camera Camera

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shot.07

✿CAMERA CAMERA CAMERA✿ 2

shot.7.....003
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afterword.....198

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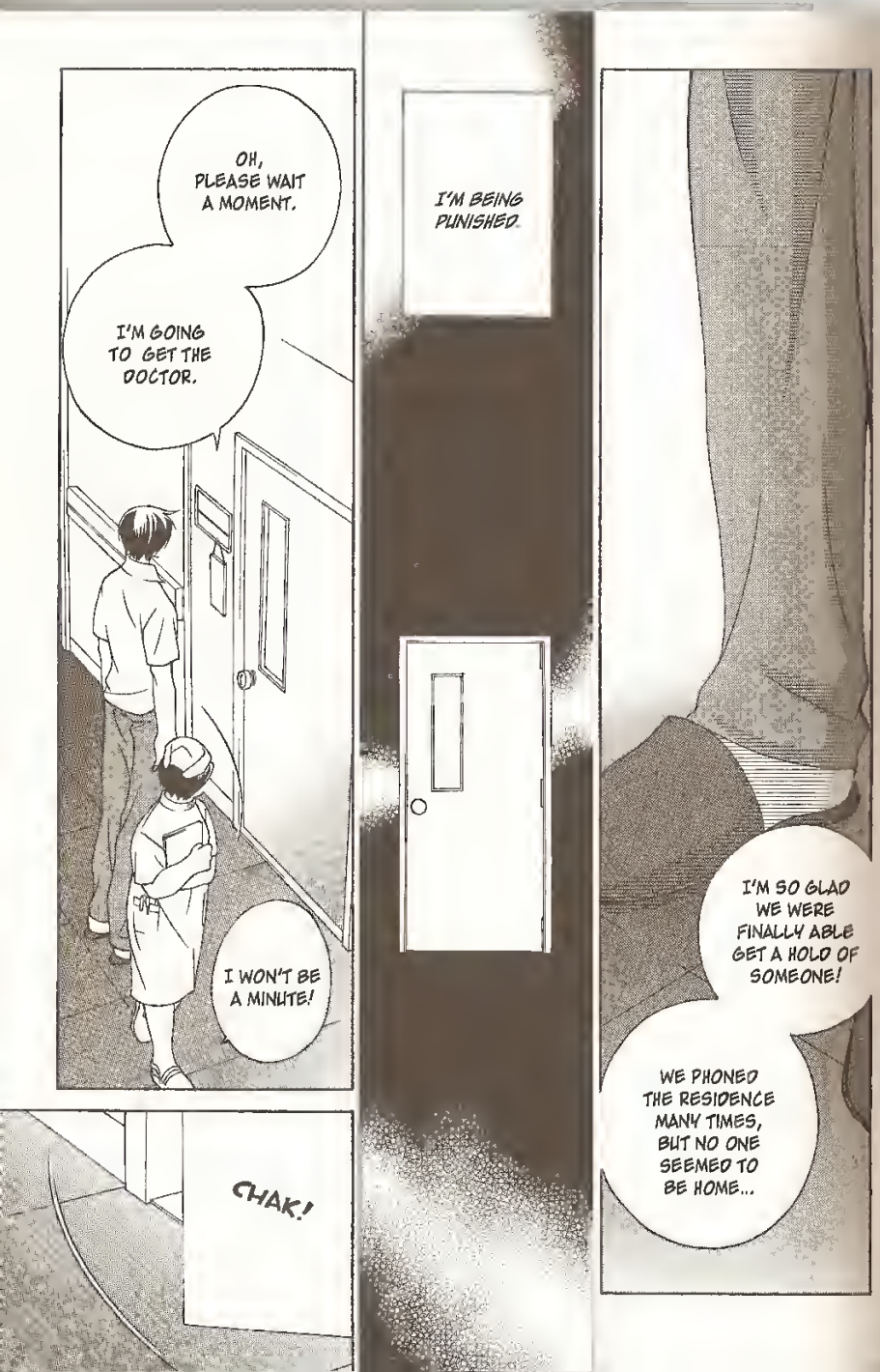
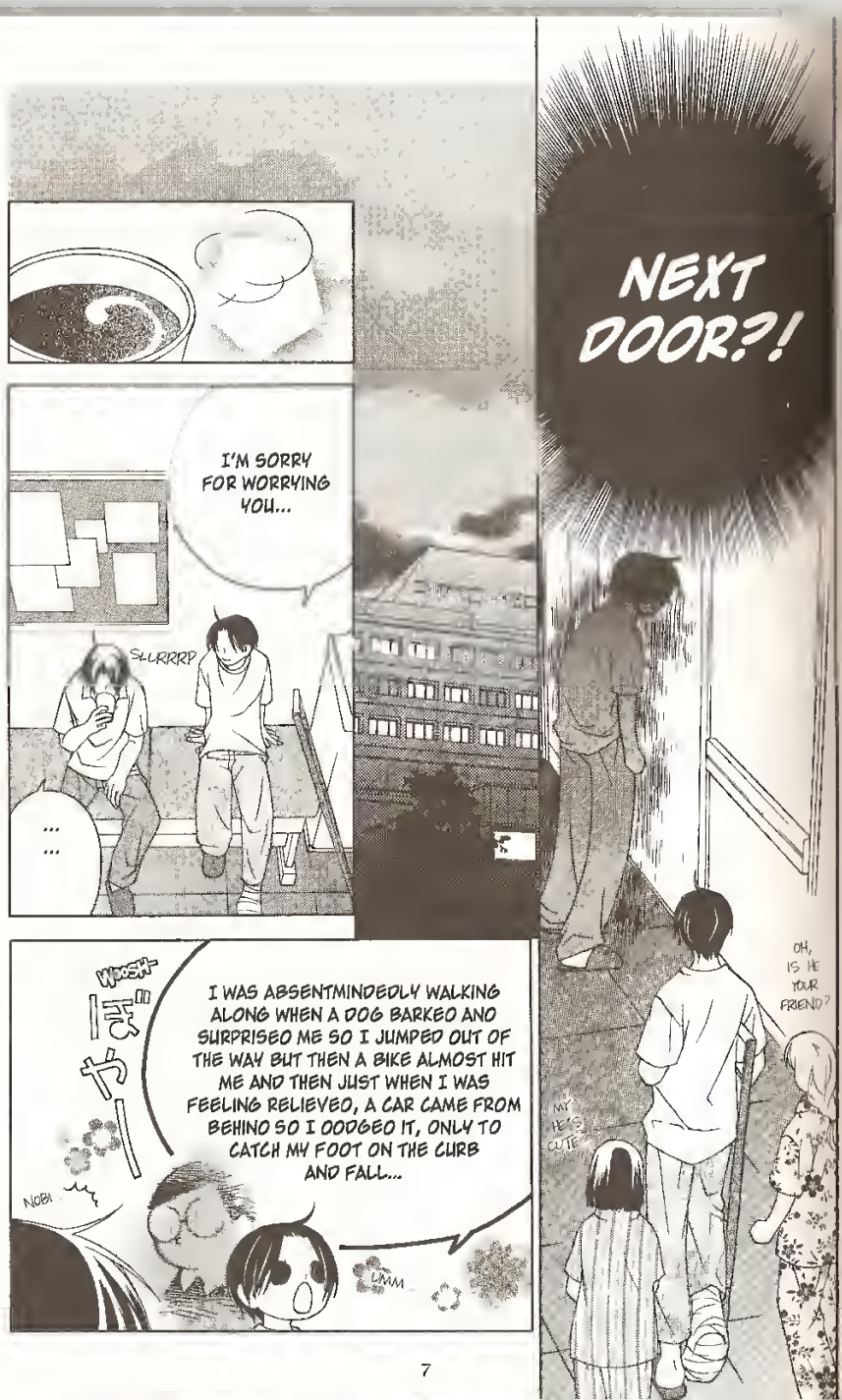
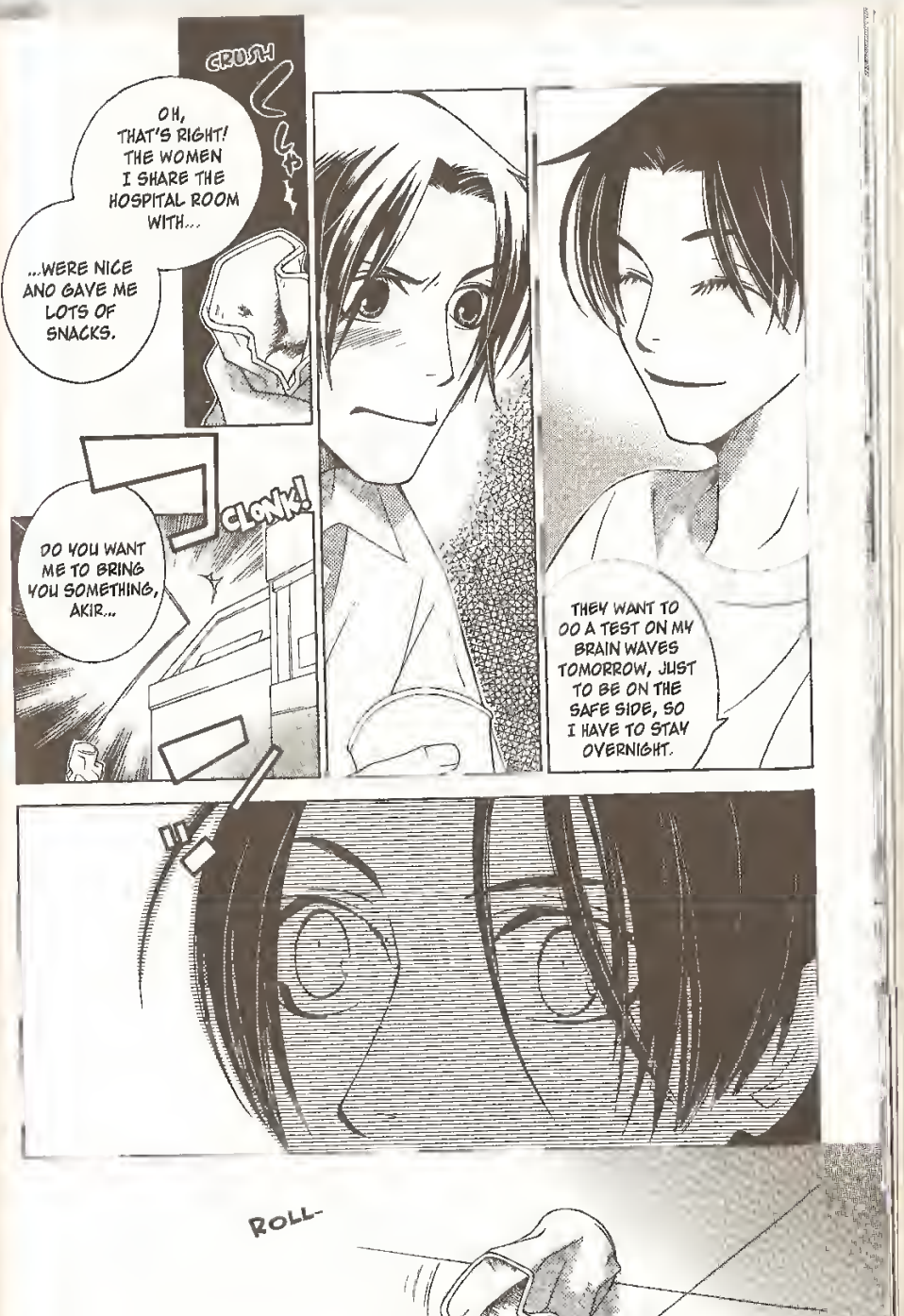

OH, PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.
I'M GOING TO GET THE DOCTOR.
I WON'T BE A MINUTE!
CHAK!
I'M BEING PUNISHED.
I'M SO GLAD WE WERE FINALLY ABLE GET A HOLD OF SOMEONE!
WE PHONED THE RESIDENCE MANY TIMES, BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO BE HOME...

面会謝絶
NO VISITORS
=HAH=
=HAH...=
=HAH...=
OH!
ARE YOU A RELATIVE?
I'M SORRY THE NAMEPLATES ARE DELATED
!


NEXT DOOR?!
I'M SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU...
SLURRRP
...
...
I WAS ABSENTMINDEDLY WALKING ALONG WHEN A DOG BARKED AND SURPRISED ME SO I JUMPED OUT OF THE WAY BUT THEN A BIKE ALMOST HIT ME AND THEN JUST WHEN I WAS FEELING RELIEVED, A CAR CAME FROM BEHIND SO I DODGED IT, ONLY TO CATCH MY FOOT ON THE CURB AND FALL...
WHOSH
NOBI
UMM
OH, IS HE YOUR FRIEND?
HE'S CUTE!

CHATTER
COME ON- HOLD ON TO MOMMA
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
CHATTER
OH-
OKAY, OKAY
PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN!
?
HEY, AKIRA.

I THOUGHT I WAS BEING PUNISHED.
...I JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS.
WHEN I SAW THAT "NO VISITORS" SIGN, EVERYTHING WENT BLACK FOR A SECOND.
I THOUGHT... I WAS NEVER GOING TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
SQUEEZE
QUIT KIDDING AROUND.
WHEN I WAS TOLD YOU'D BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT...
PUNISHMENT FOR HAVING TURNED MY ATTENTION TO SOMEONE OTHER THAN MY BROTHER...
PUNISHMENT FOR MY BETRAYAL.


CRUSH
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! THE WOMEN I SHARE THE HOSPITAL ROOM WITH...
...WERE NICE AND GAVE ME LOTS OF SNACKS.
CLONK!
DO YOU WANT ME TO BRING YOU SOMETHING, AKIR...
THEY WANT TO DO A TEST ON MY BRAIN WAVES TOMORROW, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, SO I HAVE TO STAY OVERNIGHT.
ROLL

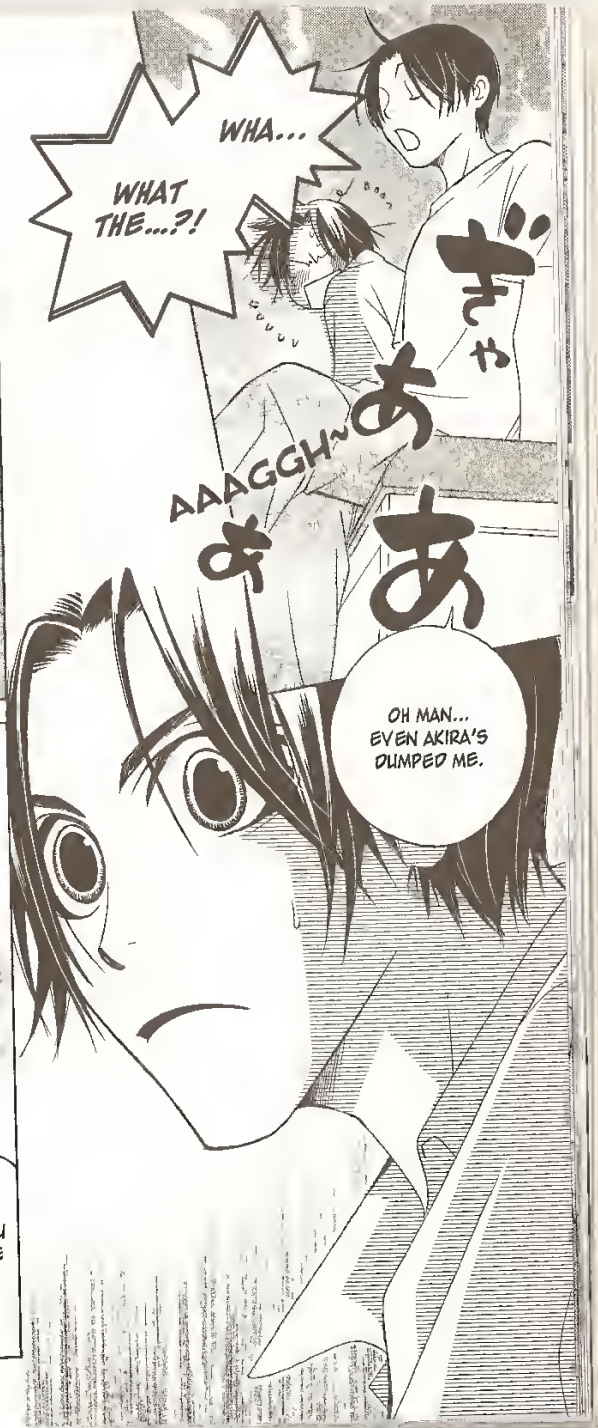
I'VE ALWAYS...
NOT EVEN AS A FRIEND—
NOT JUST AS A BROTHER—
LEAN—
YOINK
GRAB
?!
...
...

I LOVE YOU, BROTHER.
I LOVE YOU, TOO, AKI—
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

ANYONE COULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT, SINCE YOU ALWAYS CAME OUT OF THE BATHROOM LEAVING THAT GREEN, FISHY SMELL...
やめてぇぇぇ
Noooooo!
CASUAL
ナニラ
!!!
JUMP!
GIRIN
GIRIN
NORMALLY, YOU'D RUN TO THE BATHROOM AFTER I DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
OF COURSE.
Y-
YOU KNEW...?!
?

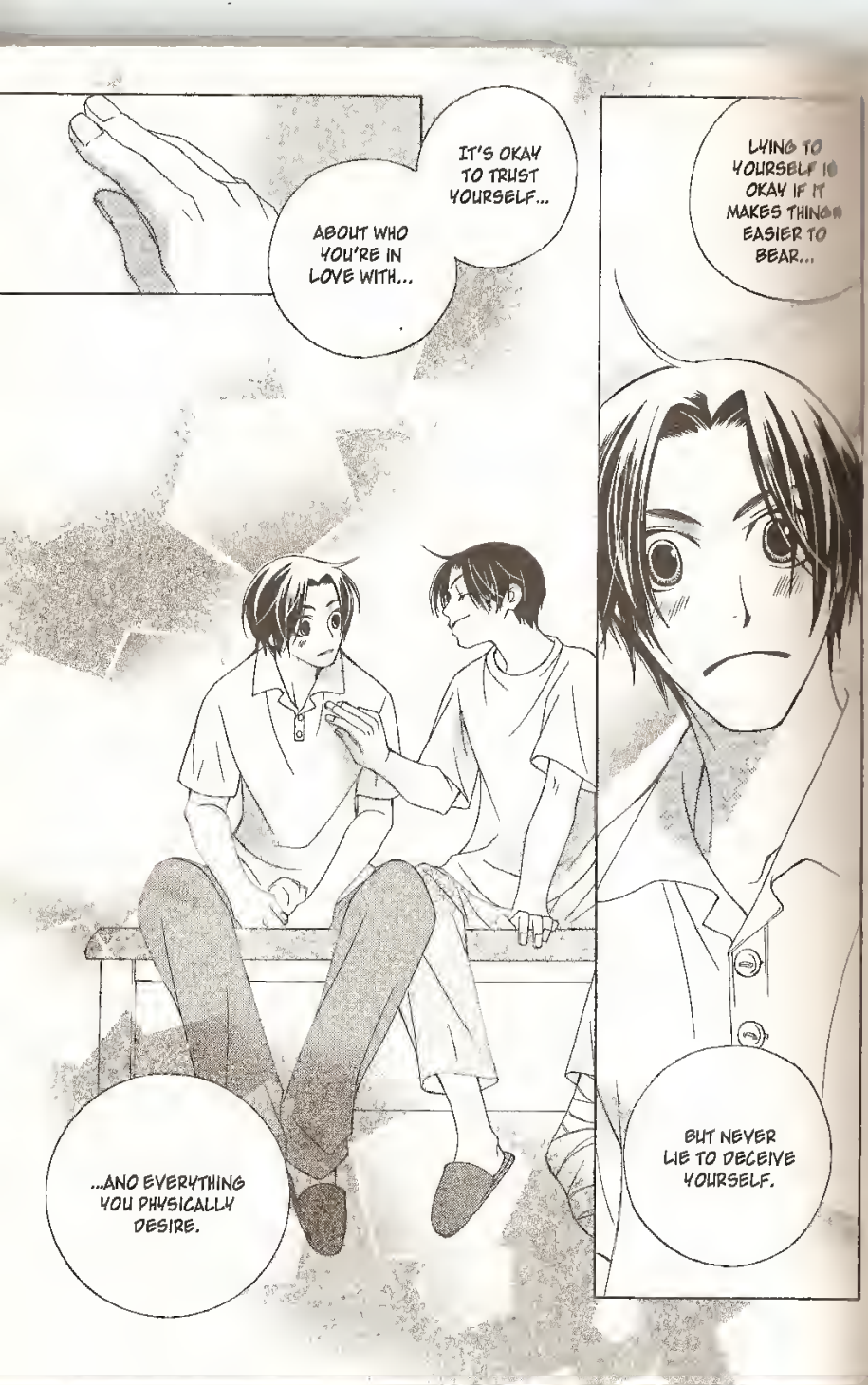
LISTEN TO ME! I JUST TOLD YOU I...

YOU MEAN YOU "USED" TO BE IN LOVE WITH ME, RIGHT?

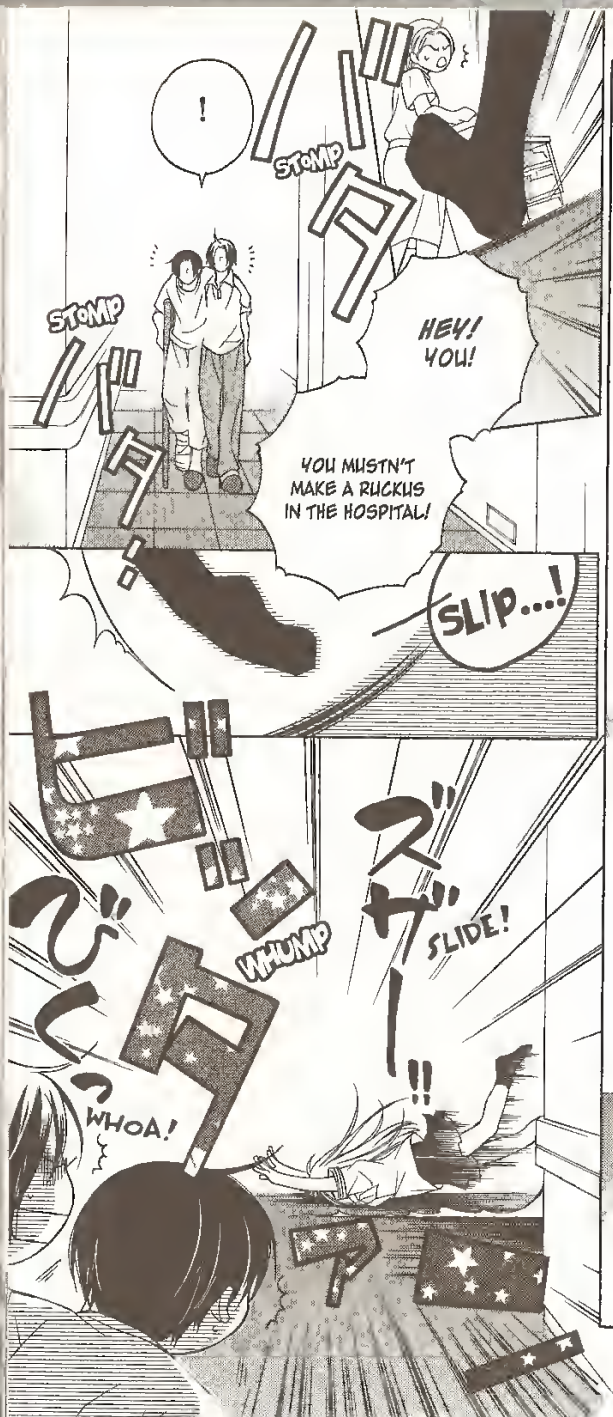

WHA...
WHAT THE...?!
ぎゃ
AAAGGHぁぁ
OH MAN... EVEN AKIRA'S DUMPED ME.

MIYATA-SAN GAVE ME A LOT OF SUPPORT...
SUPPORT...?
HER...?!
"I AM THE WOMAN WHO IS GOING TO BE SATORU TOGAWA'S WIFE!"
HUH!
WHA
WHO...
WAS IT TO MIYATA?!
NO, IT WAS TO SOMEONE ELSE IN MY CLASS.
SHE SAID IT'S ONLY ONE-WAY, THOUGH.
WELL, IT SEEMS SHE'S IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE ALREADY.
BUT WHEN I CONFESSED MY LOVE TO HER...

"TOO"?
HUH?!
BUT LOOK WHERE IT'S GOTTEN ME... PATHETIC, I TELL YOU.
ACTUALLY... I CONFESSED MY LOVE TO SOMEONE TODAY...

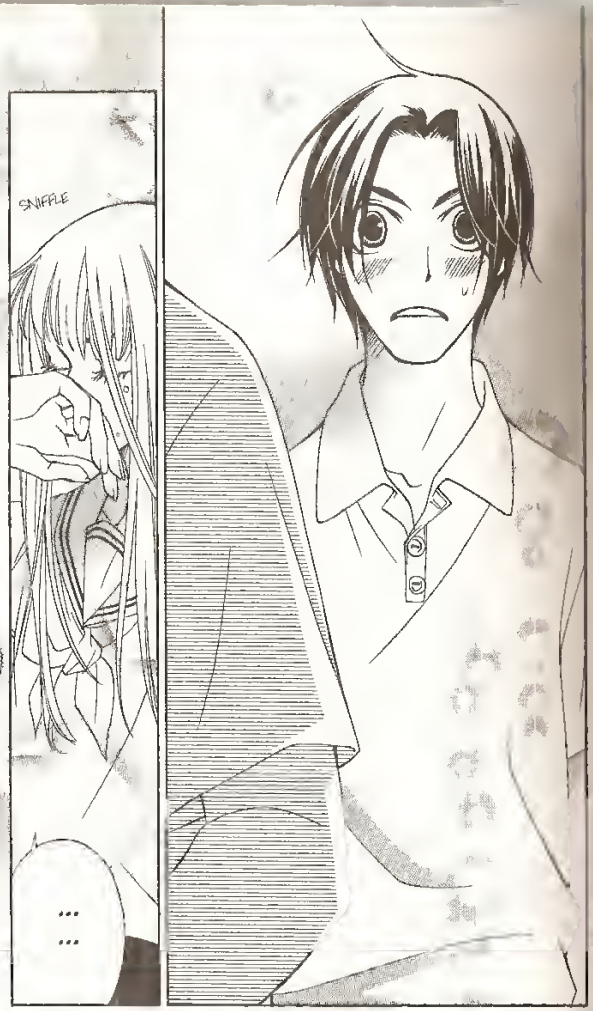

IT'S OKAY TO TRUST YOURSELF...
ABOUT WHO YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH...
...AND EVERYTHING YOU PHYSICALLY DESIRE.
LYING TO YOURSELF IS OKAY IF IT MAKES THINGS EASIER TO BEAR...
BUT NEVER LIE TO DECEIVE YOURSELF.

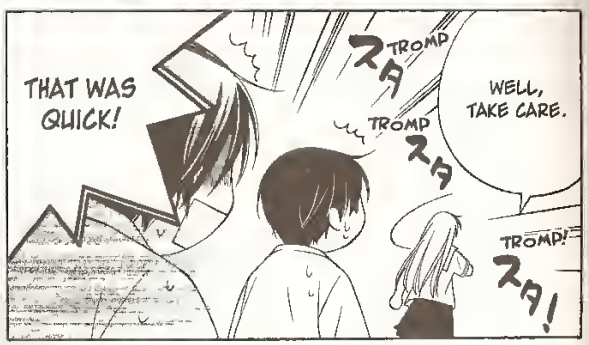
DEPRESSING!
...I HAD NO IDEA THAT THERE WAS ANYONE YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH...
OF COURSE THERE IS!
PUT TRASH IN THE TRASH CAN
I CAN'T EXPRESS IT WITH MY ENTIRE BEING LIKE YOU, AKIRA.
BUT I'M SO TIMID.
SLUMP
...WHAT THE HECK...
THAT'S NOT VERY POLITE, TO REFER TO YOUR AFFECTION FOR ME AS "CREEPY"!
I...I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO CREEPY...
I...

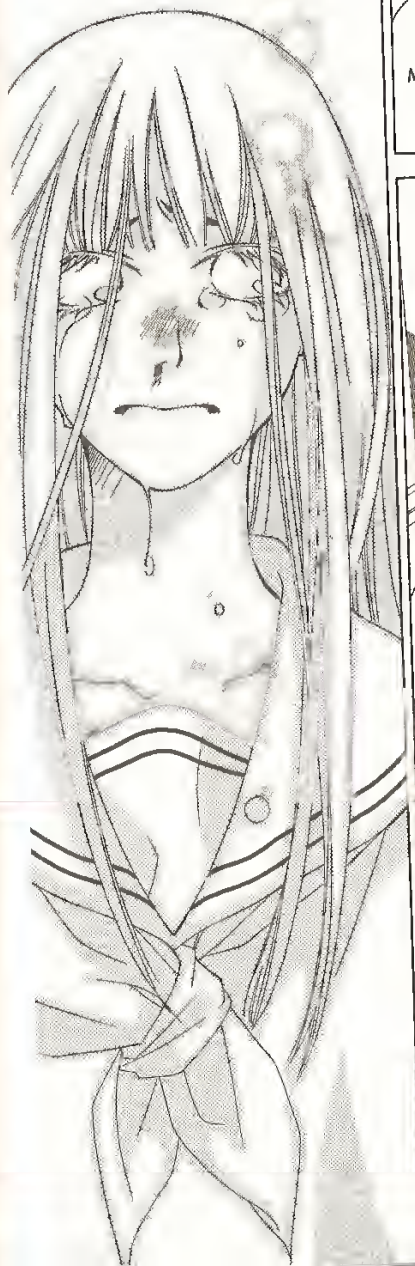

!
STOMP
STOMP
HEY! YOU!
YOU MUSTN'T MAKE A RUCKUS IN THE HOSPITAL!
SLIP...!
WHUMP
SLIDE!
WHOA!

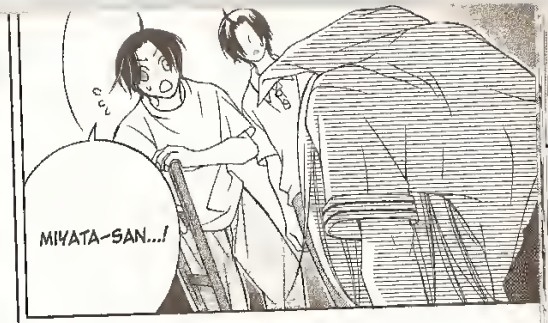
I'M GLAD IT WAS HIM.
DON'T ASK ME CRUDE STUFF LIKE THAT
SO WAS IT YOUR PLAN FOR ME TO BE THE BOTTOM

I'M GLAD I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH MALE... EVEN THOUGH I'M HIS BROTHER...
YEAH...
AFTER ARRIVING AT THE TOGAWA HOME...
I MET SOMEONE I REALLY LIKED.
AND THOUGH I CAN'T BE SURE WHEN THAT FEELING TURNED INTO LOVE...


SNIFFLE
...
...

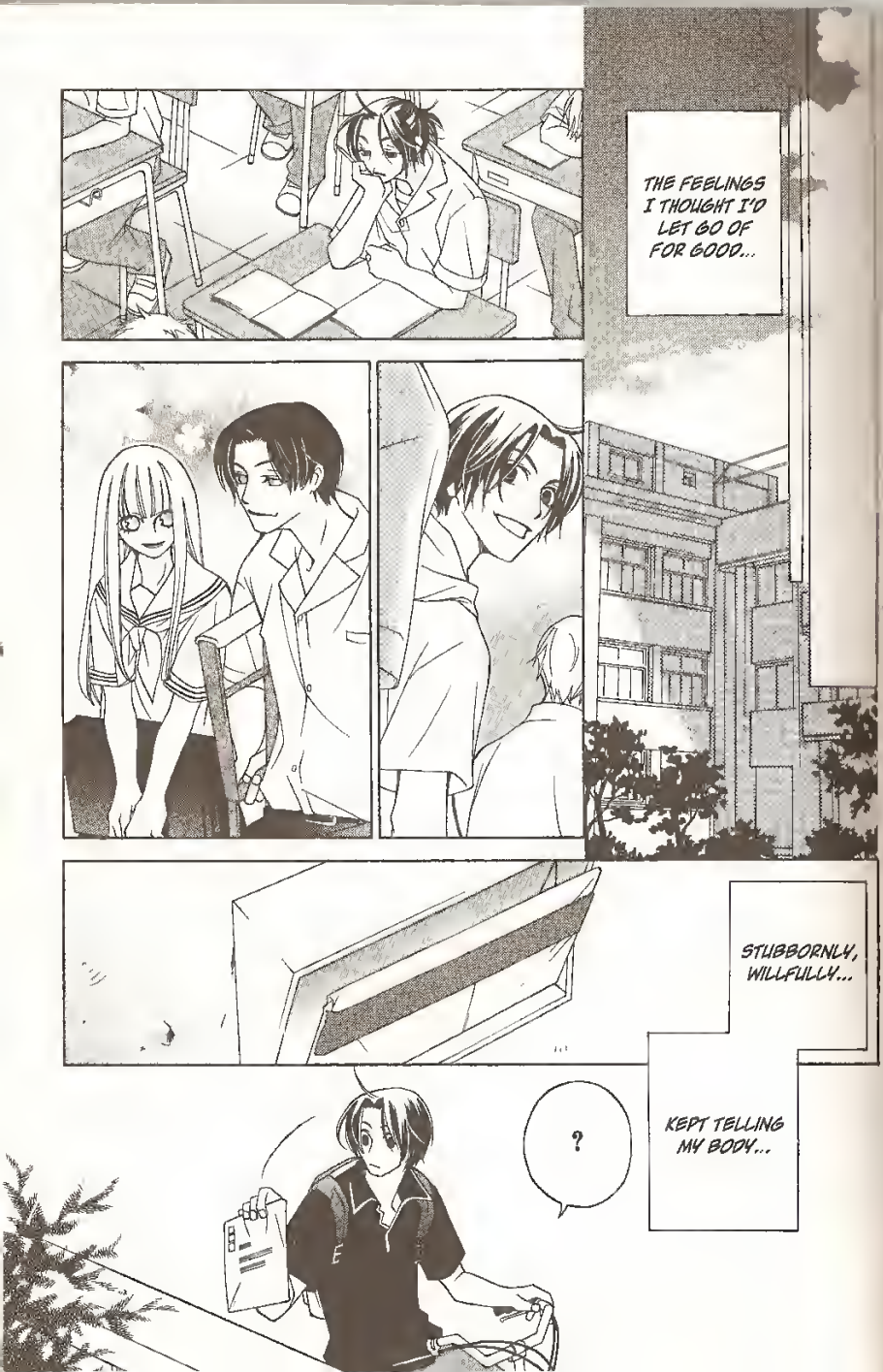

THAT WAS QUICK!
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP!
WELL, TAKE CARE.




MIYATA-SAN...!

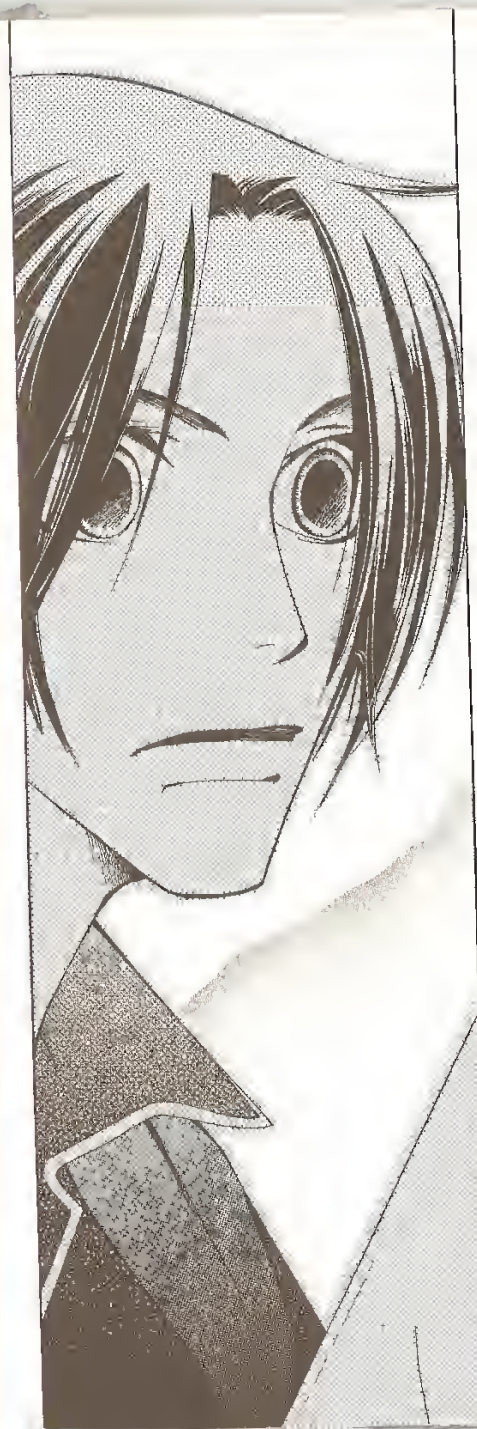
NOSEBLEED
WHOA...
ARE YOU OKAY?!
YOUR MOTHER WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO CONTACT ME...
OH, SORRY ABOUT THAT. YOU SEE...
IT'S JUST A BROKEN LEG,

WHSH!
!!


THE FEELINGS I THOUGHT I'D LET GO OF FOR GOOD...
STUBBORNLY, WILLFULLY...
KEPT TELLING MY BODY...
?

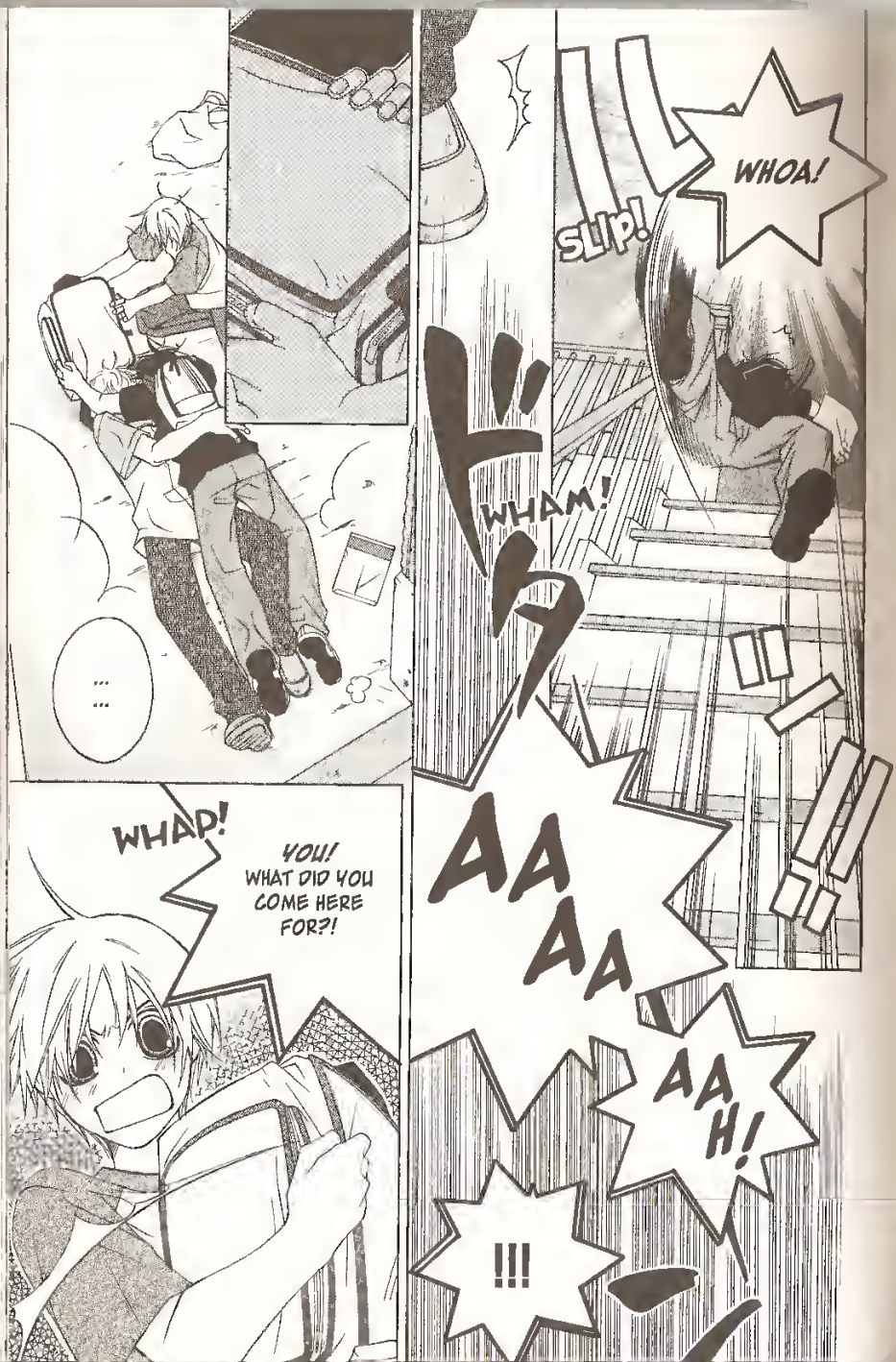
IT'S ALL SO SILLY...
HEH HEH HEH...
HEH

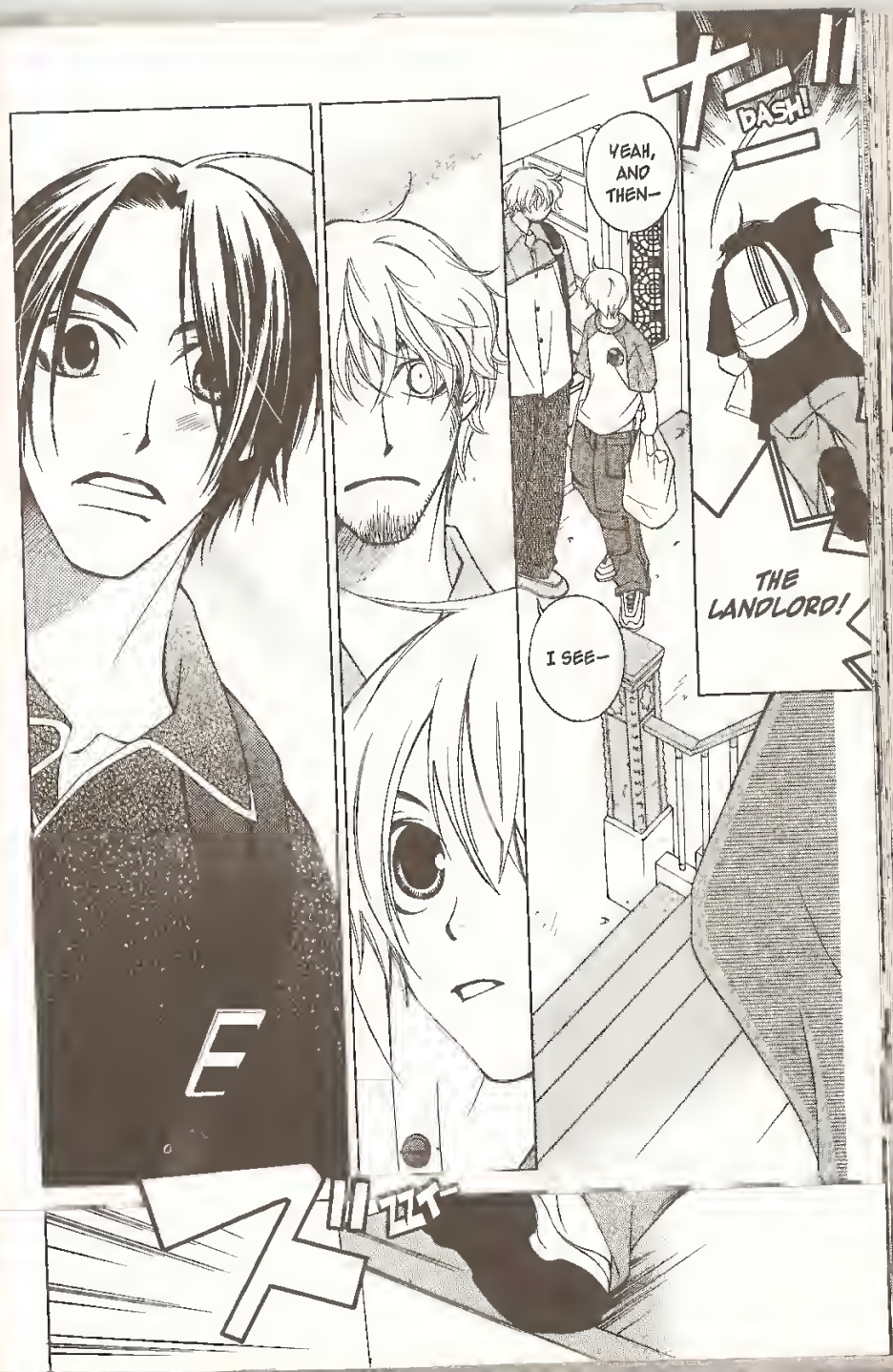
USING "LOVE" AS MY JUSTIFICATION...



...TO FORGE AHEAD.

Kaoru Nakahara

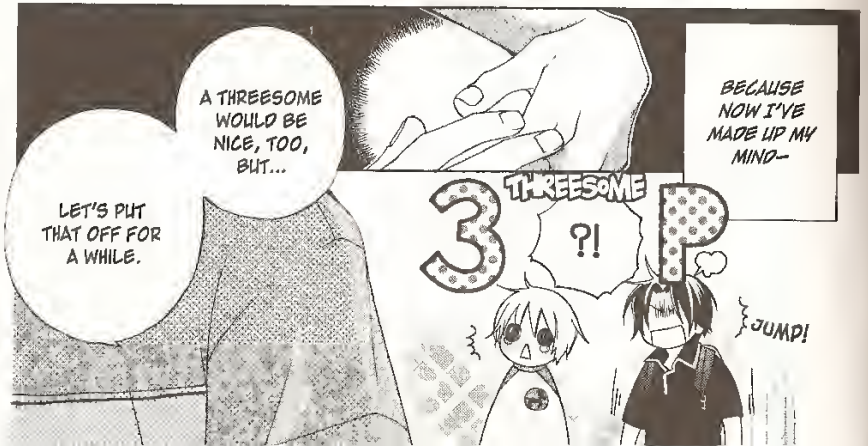

...
...
WHAP!
YOU! WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?!
SLIP!
WHOA!
WHAM!
AAAAAAH!
!!!


YEAH, AND THEN—
I SEE—
DASH!
THE LANDLORD!

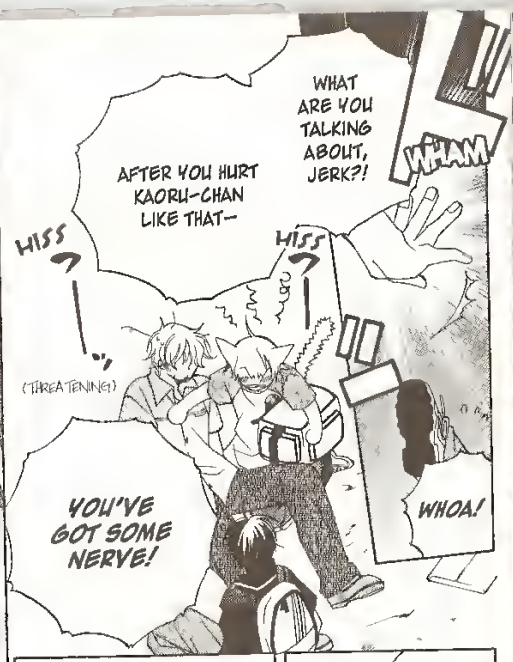
I WON'T ASK YOU TO LOVE ME AGAIN...
I WON'T ASK ANYTHING SO SELFISH.
!!!
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ME LOVING YOU— WELL, THAT'S MY CHOICE, ISN'T IT?

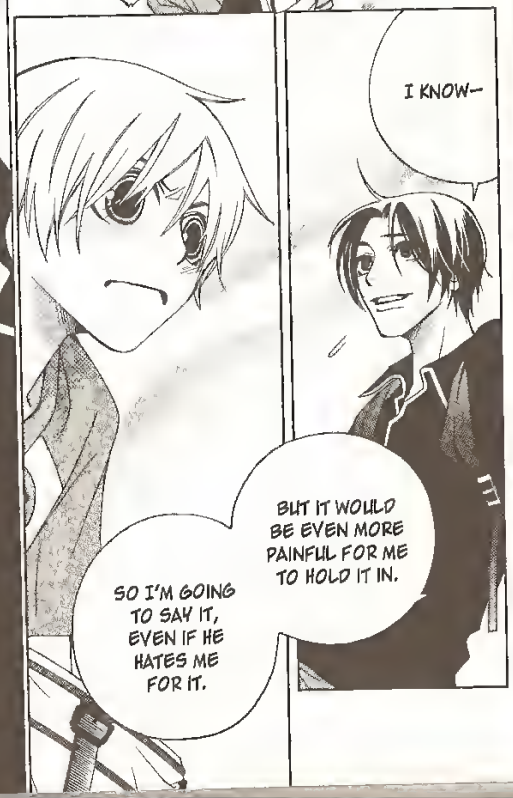
I KNOW IT'S A BIT LATE, BUT THAT'S YOUR PAYCHECK FOR ASSISTING ME, AND SOME SAMPLE PHOTOS—
POP!
YO—
SO THAT REACHED YOU, HUH?

IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL A 'LOVERS' TRIANGLE? SCARY
I'M FINE WITH IT.
I LOVE HIM MORE!
HA
IT'S NOT FINE!
WAAH
KRAK


A THREESOME WOULD BE NICE, TOO, BUT...
LET'S PUT THAT OFF FOR A WHILE.
BECAUSE NOW I'VE MADE UP MY MIND—
3 THREESOME ?!
JUMP!

I LOVE YOU, KAORU NAKAHARA.

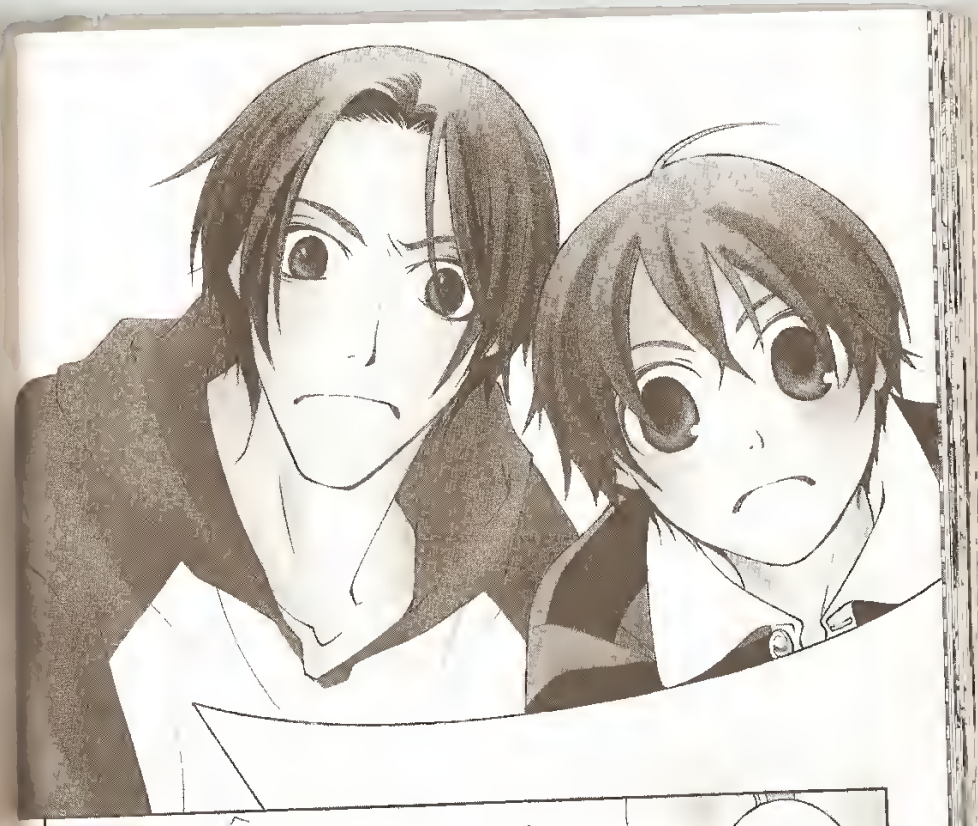

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JERK?!
WHAM
AFTER YOU HURT KAORU-CHAN LIKE THAT—
HISS
HISS
(THREATENING)
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE!
WHOA!

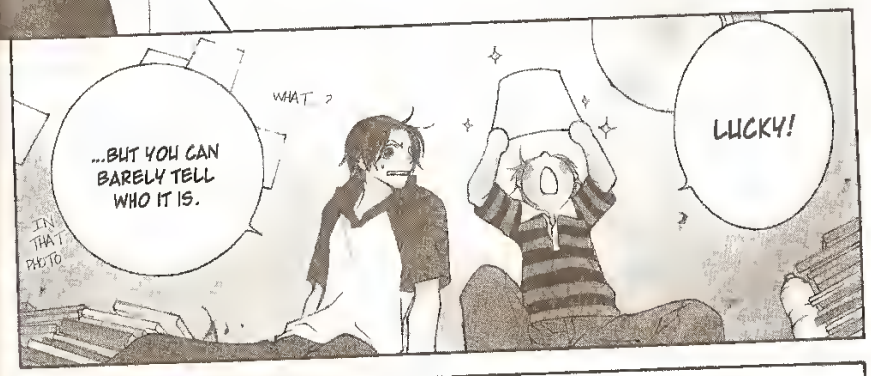

I KNOW—
BUT IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE PAINFUL FOR ME TO HOLD IT IN.
SO I'M GOING TO SAY IT, EVEN IF HE HATES ME FOR IT.

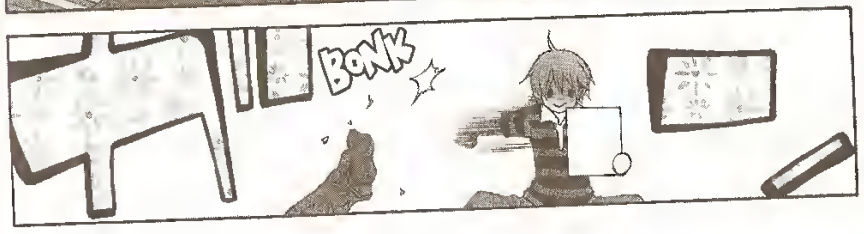
Camera Camera Camera
カメラカメラカメラ
shot.08

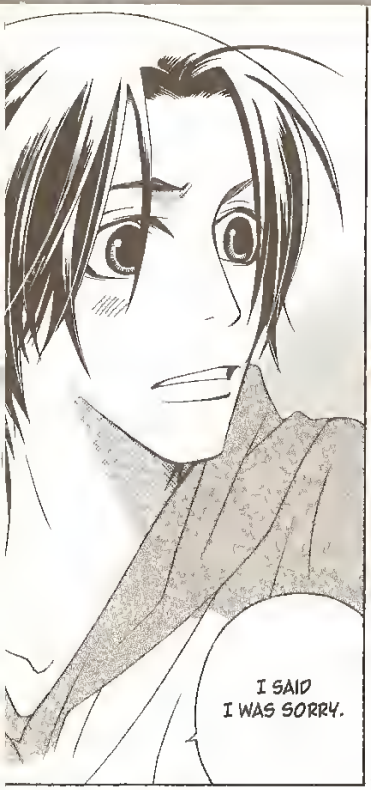
DOOOOM!
MY ARM'S BROKEN AGAIN.
!!!
...TO BELIEVE IN THIS LOVE.

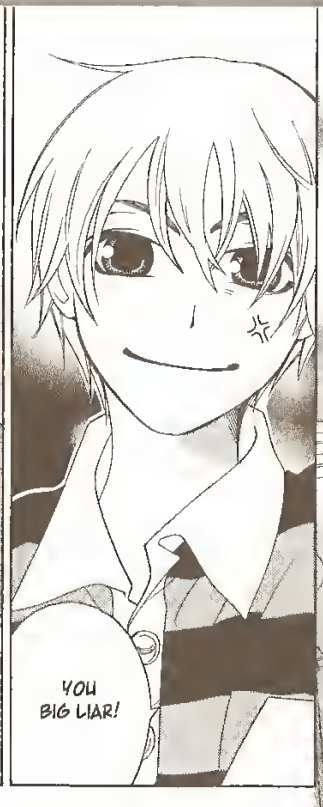
Camera Camera Camera
カメラ・カメラ・カメラ
shot.08



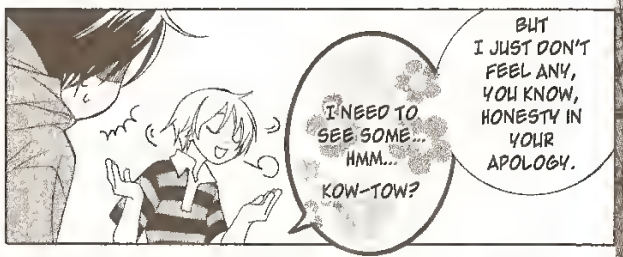

...BUT YOU CAN BARELY TELL WHO IT IS.
IN THAT PHOTO
WHAT ?
LUCKY!

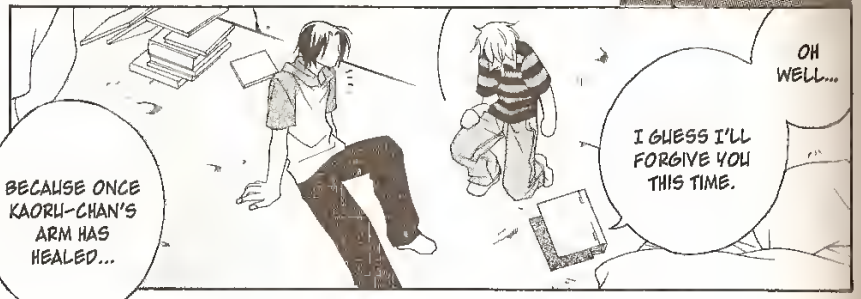

BONK


I SAID I WAS SORRY.


YOU BIG LIAR!

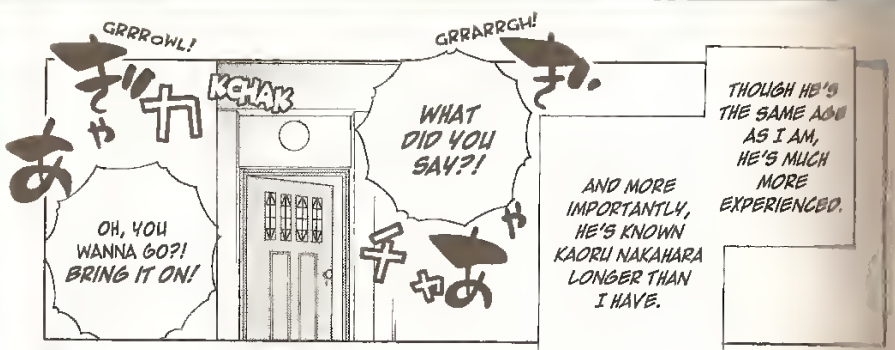
YOU REALLY PISS ME OFF.


I NEED TO SEE SOME... HMM... KOW-TOW?
BUT I JUST DON'T FEEL ANY, YOU KNOW, HONESTY IN YOUR APOLOGY.

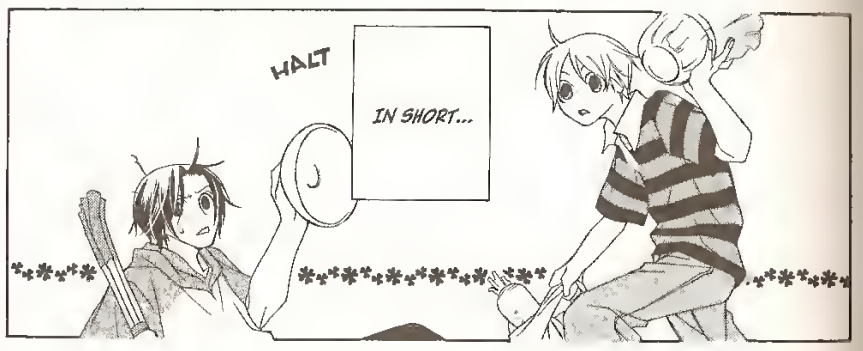

BECAUSE ONCE KAORU-CHAN'S ARM HAS HEALED...
I GUESS I'LL FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME.
OH WELL...

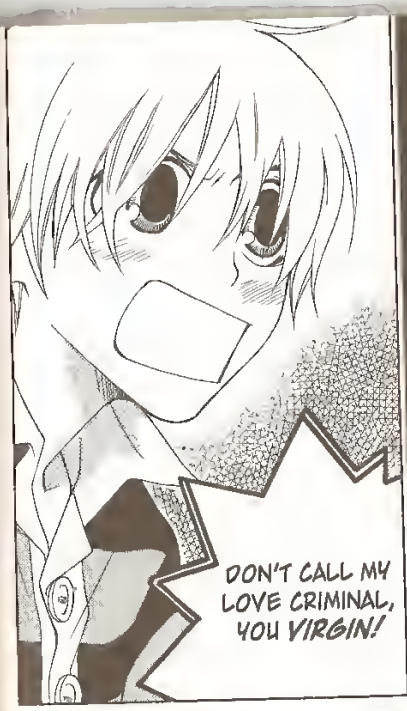
BUT—
I'LL JUST CHUCK YOU OUT OF THE BED AFTER 30 SECONDS!
AS A SPECIAL FAVOR, I'LL LET YOU CHOP THE GREEN ONIONS
KADRU-CHAN INCLUDED ME!
I'M JUST HAPPY WITH THAT.
MU
HWA
HA
HA
THE TECHNIQUE I'VE PERFECTED THESE FIVE YEARS—
I'M GONNA MELT KAORU-CHAN WITH IT!

IT'S THREESOME TIME!
FLINCH!
SQUEE!
THAT SEEMS WRONG, TOO...
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST WATCH?
CLUNK
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S DEVIANT OR NOT.
BESIDES...
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU—
...YOU'RE SUCH A SEXUAL DEVIANT!
THAT WAS JUST A JOKE, WASN'T IT?!

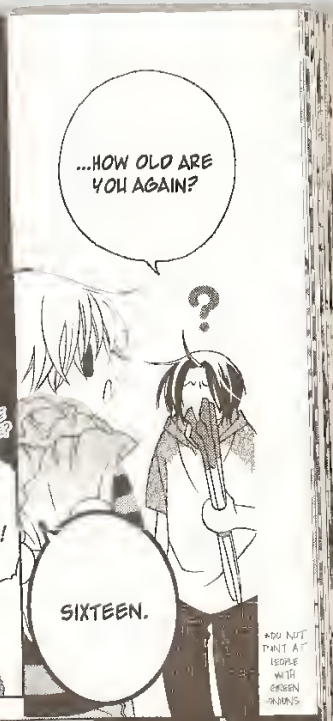

GRRROWL!
GRRARRGH!
KCHAK
OH, YOU WANNA GO?! BRING IT ON!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE'S KNOWN KAORU NAKAHARA LONGER THAN I HAVE.
THOUGH HE'S THE SAME AGE AS I AM, HE'S MUCH MORE EXPERIENCED.

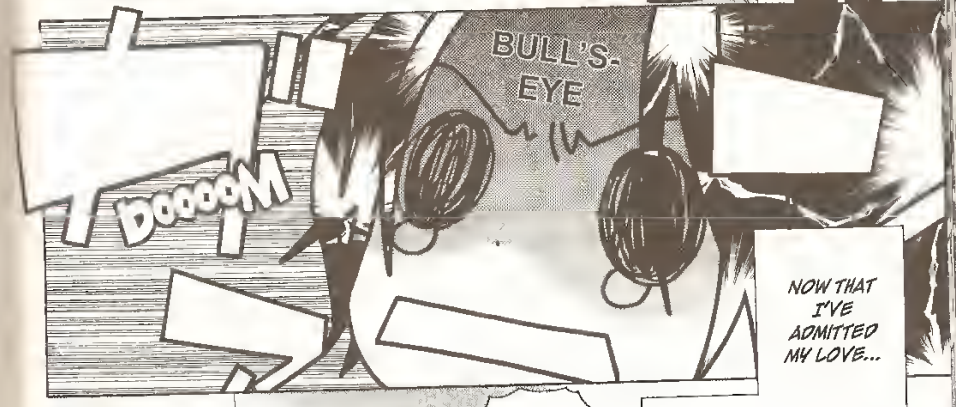
AND HE'S A CUTE-FACED MODEL.
OHHH MAN
NOT AGAIN, YOU GUYS... IN MY HOUSE WITHOUT PERMISSION...

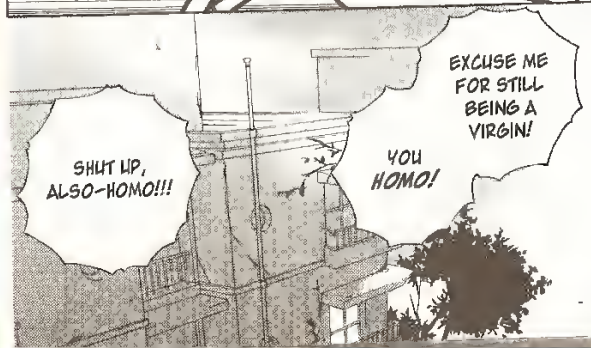

HALT
IN SHORT...


DON'T CALL MY LOVE CRIMINAL, YOU VIRGIN!

16 - 5 = ?
SNAP!
WE'RE THE SAME AGE?
THAT'S CRIMINAL!

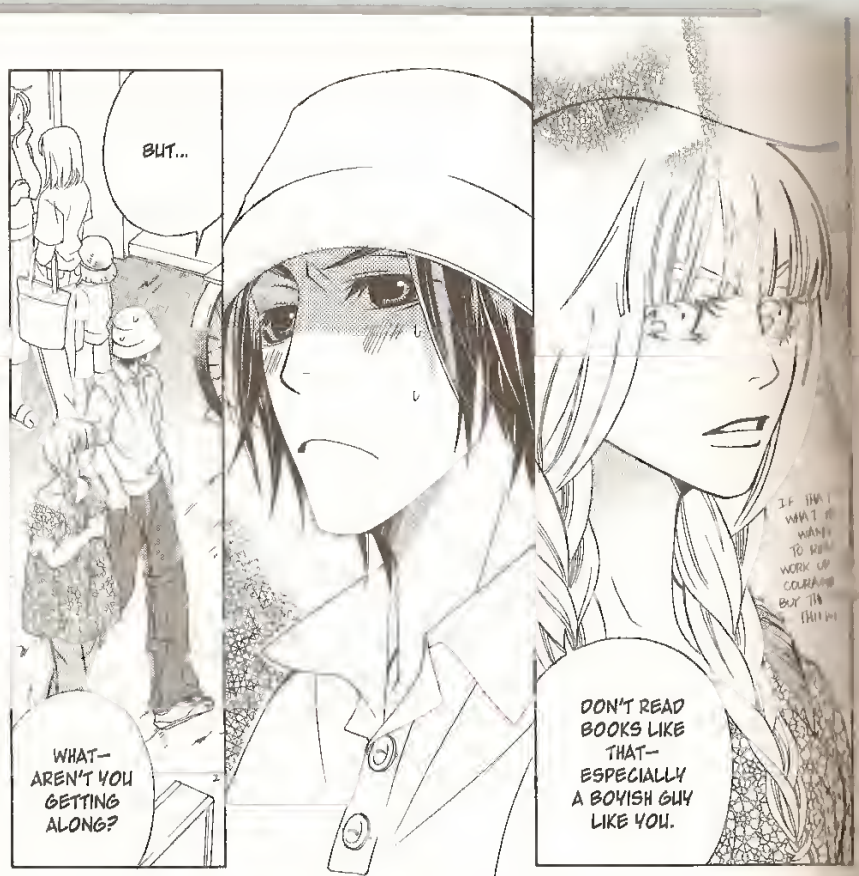

...HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?
?
SIXTEEN.
YOU NOT PAINT AT PEOPLE WITH GREEN SKINS

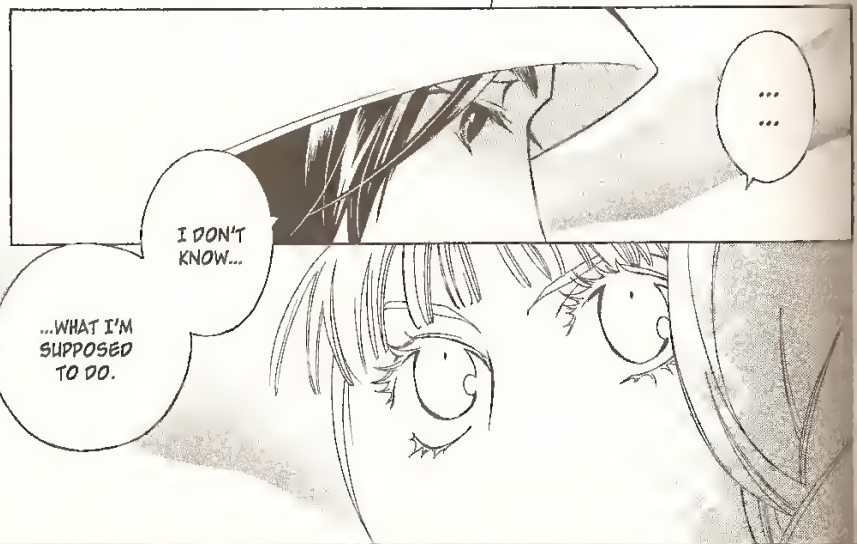

DOOOOM
BULL'S-EYE
NOW THAT I'VE ADMITTED MY LOVE...
I'VE ALREADY GOT A RIVAL.


SHUT UP, ALSO-HOMO!!!
YOU HOMO!
EXCUSE ME FOR STILL BEING A VIRGIN!

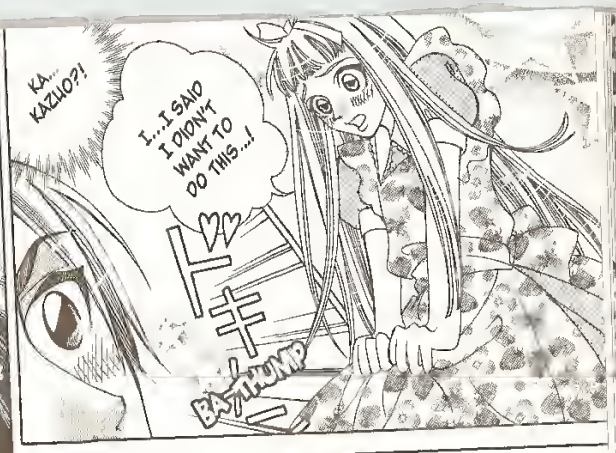
WHOOSH
HE'S THE THIRD WHEEL!
I'M SAD-
YOU GUYS HAVE BECOME SO FRIENDLY.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M THE THIRD WHEEL.
HEY!
TOSS
YUCKY~
OH... I DON'T LIKE SHIITAKE.
ZEEK
ZEEK
ZEEK
TO MR SHIITAKE!
APOLOGIZE!
I'M SORRY, MOTHER

A FORMIDABLE FOE.
WHAT?
ZIP
WELCOME HOME!
WE'RE HAVING HOT-POT TONIGHT!
AAAAGH!
LISTEN, LISTEN, KAORU-CHAN! THIS GUY, HE'S A VIR-
Y-YEAH.
I WAS WONDERING HOW YOUR ARM WAS, AND...
OH— SO YOU'RE HERE, TOO, AKIRA-KUN. SUMMER VACATION?
A VIR...?
NOTHING! IT'S NOTHING!

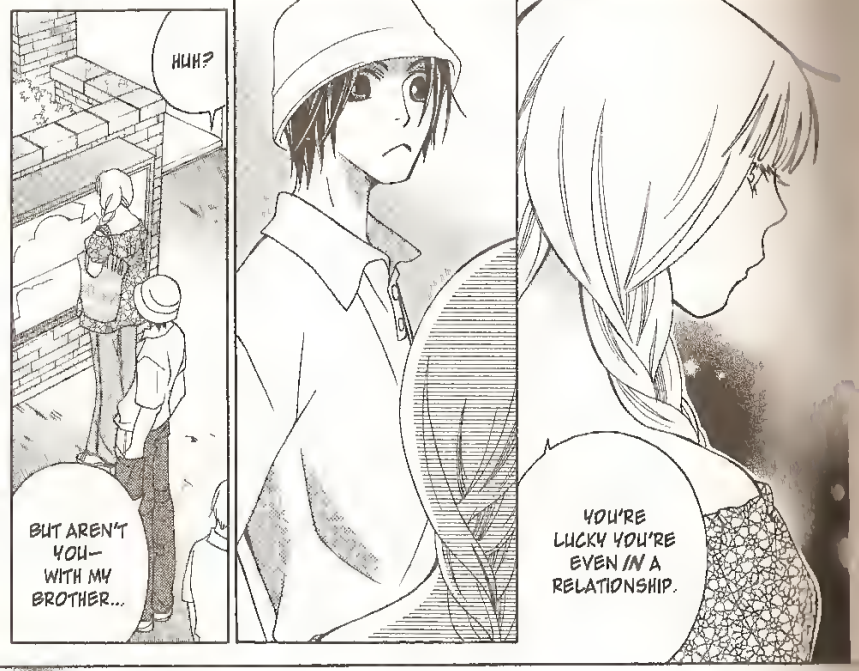

BUT...
WHAT— AREN'T YOU GETTING ALONG?
DON'T READ BOOKS LIKE THAT— ESPECIALLY A BOYISH GUY LIKE YOU.


...
...
I DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.

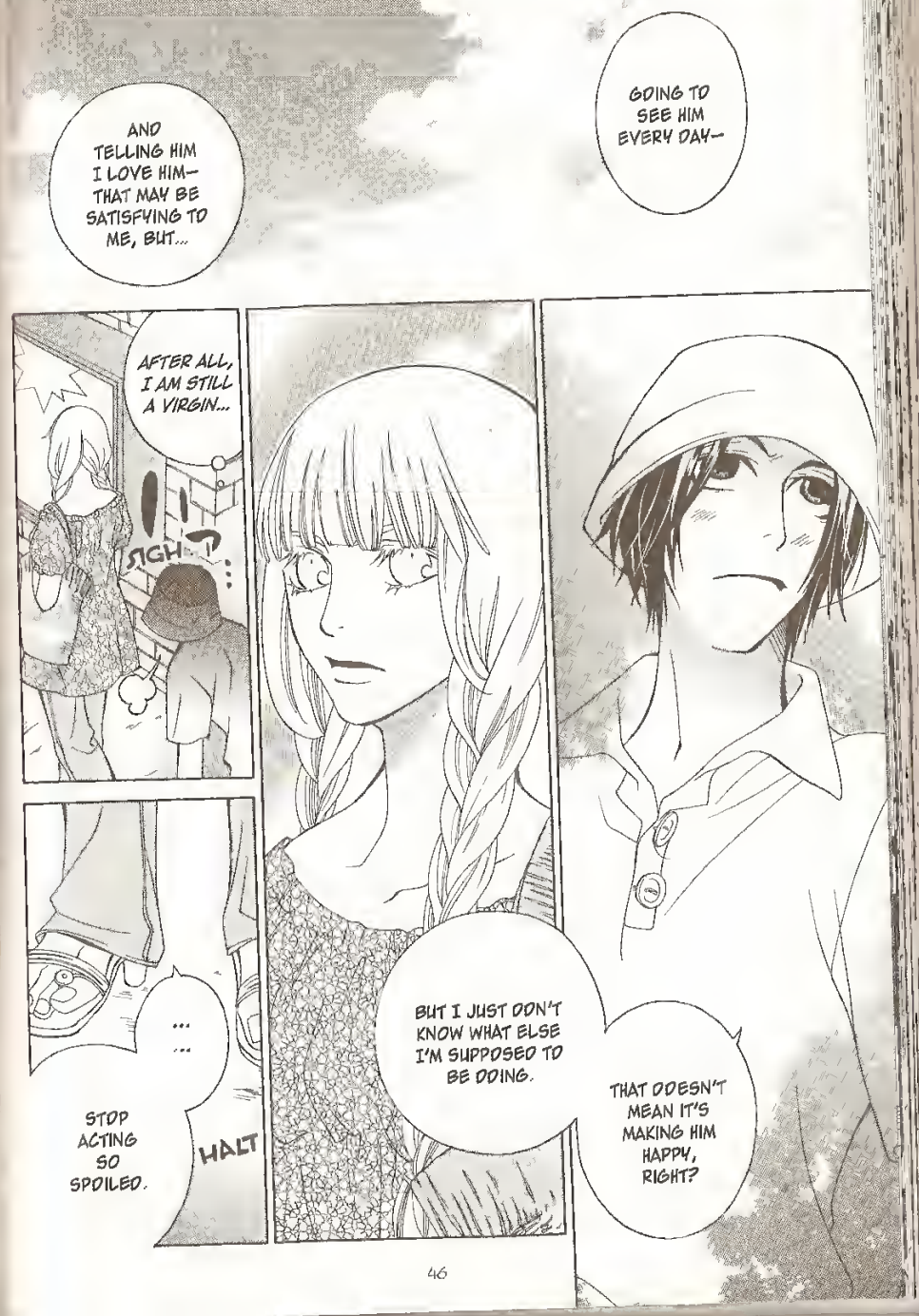
STUDYING?
AT THE BOOK STORE?

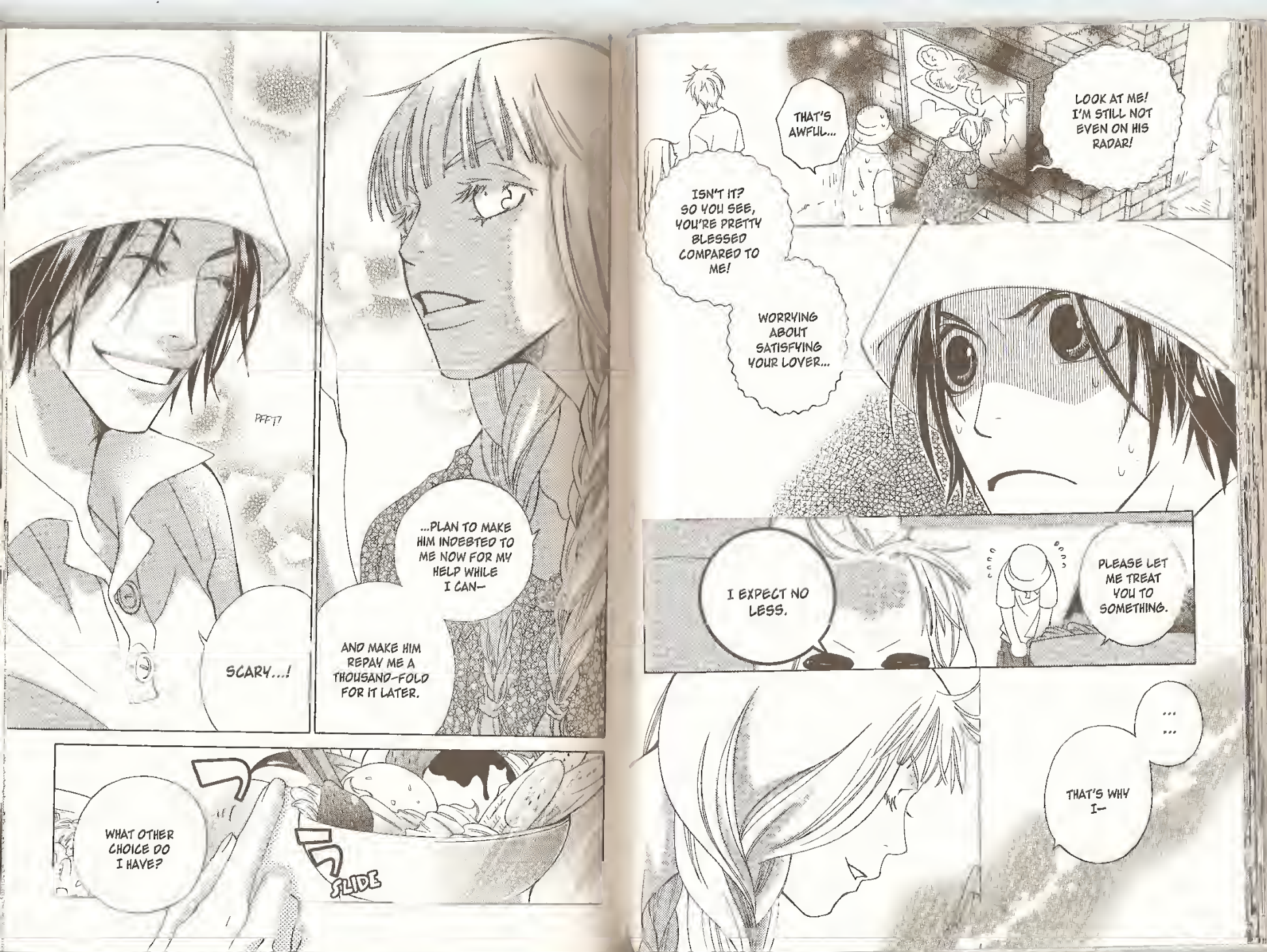

KA... KAZUO?!
I...I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS...!
BATTUMP

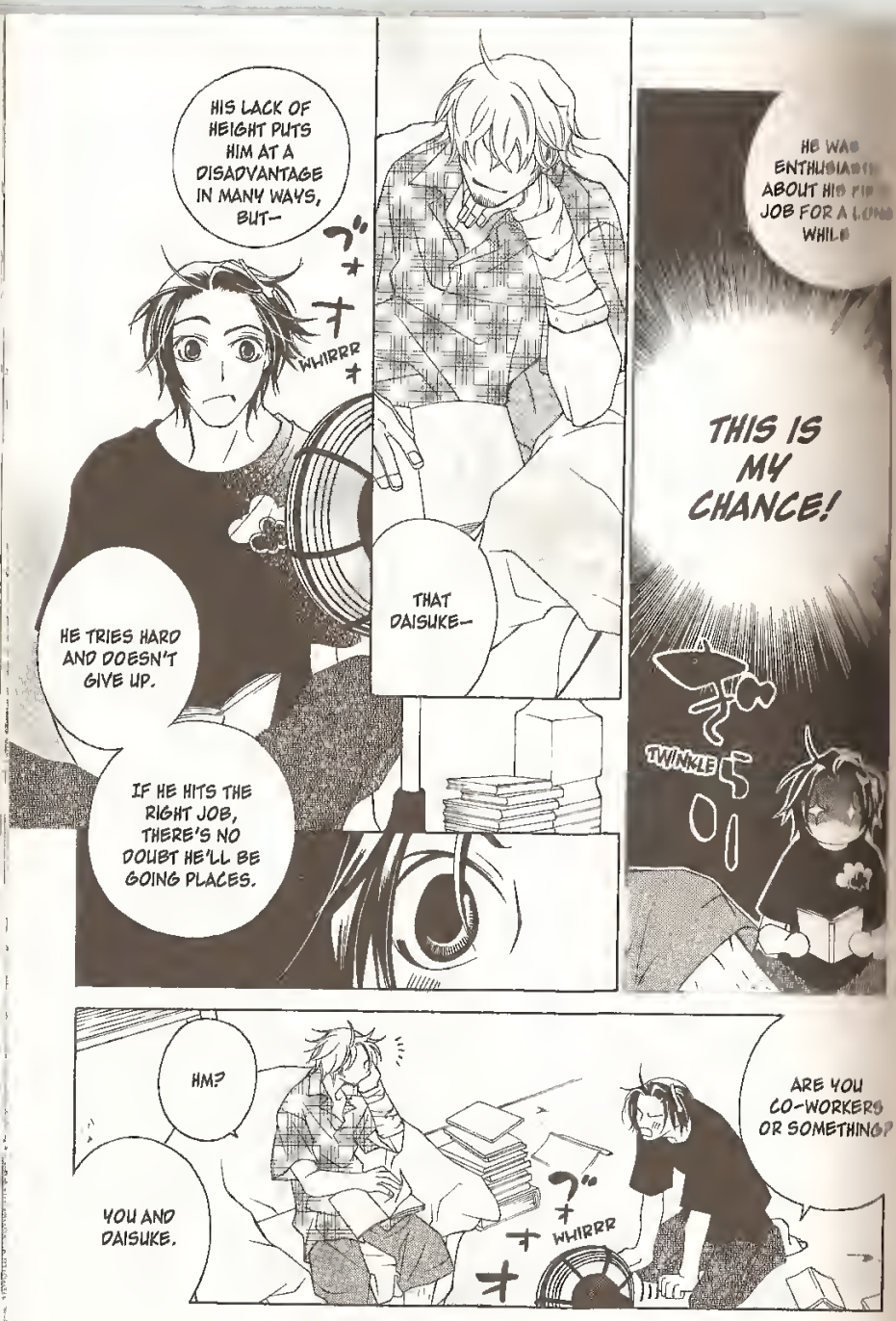
I SEE... THE DRESS-UP-LIKE-A-GIRL-AND-SURPRISE-HIM-AT-THE-CULTURAL-FESTIVAL PLAN... ★
NO WAY...
SNEAK~


HUH?
BUT AREN'T YOU— WITH MY BROTHER...
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE EVEN IN A RELATIONSHIP.

SATORU CAME TO DISCUSS HIS PROBLEMS WITH ME... ABOUT BEING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.
AGAIN.
SLUMP.
BROTHER? ARE YOU SERIOUS...?

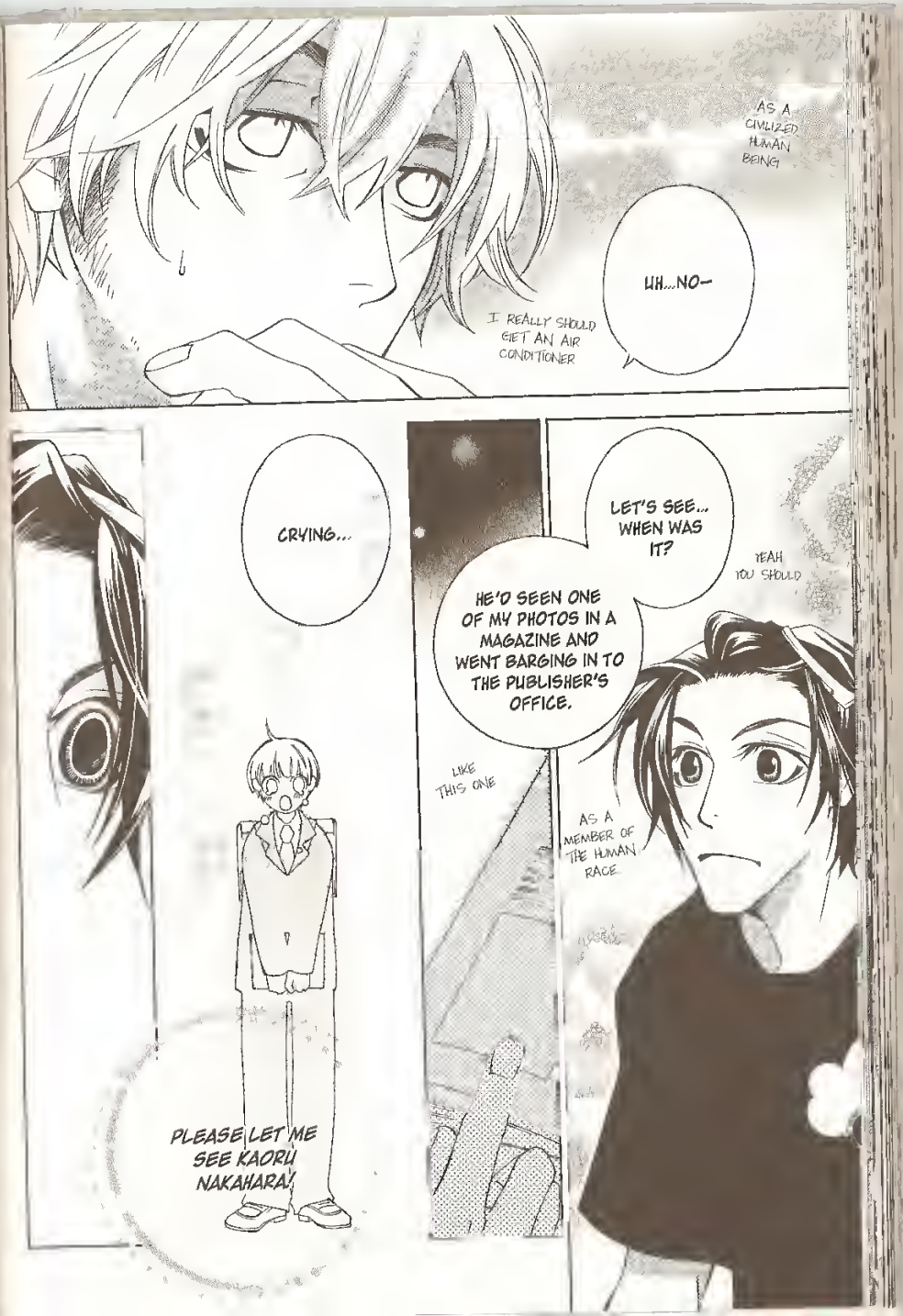

GOING TO SEE HIM EVERY DAY—
AND TELLING HIM I LOVE HIM— THAT MAY BE SATISFYING TO ME, BUT...
AFTER ALL, I AM STILL A VIRGIN...
SIGH...
BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DOING.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S MAKING HIM HAPPY, RIGHT?
...
...
STOP ACTING SO SPOILED.
HALT


LOOK AT ME! I'M STILL NOT EVEN ON HIS RADAR!
THAT'S AWFUL...
ISN'T IT? SO YOU SEE, YOU'RE PRETTY BLESSED COMPARED TO ME!
WORRYING ABOUT SATISFYING YOUR LOVER...
PLEASE LET ME TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING.
I EXPECT NO LESS.
...
...
THAT'S WHY I—
PFFT?
...PLAN TO MAKE HIM INDEBTED TO ME NOW FOR MY HELP WHILE I CAN—
AND MAKE HIM REPAY ME A THOUSAND-FOLD FOR IT LATER.
SCARY...!
SLIDE
WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO I HAVE?

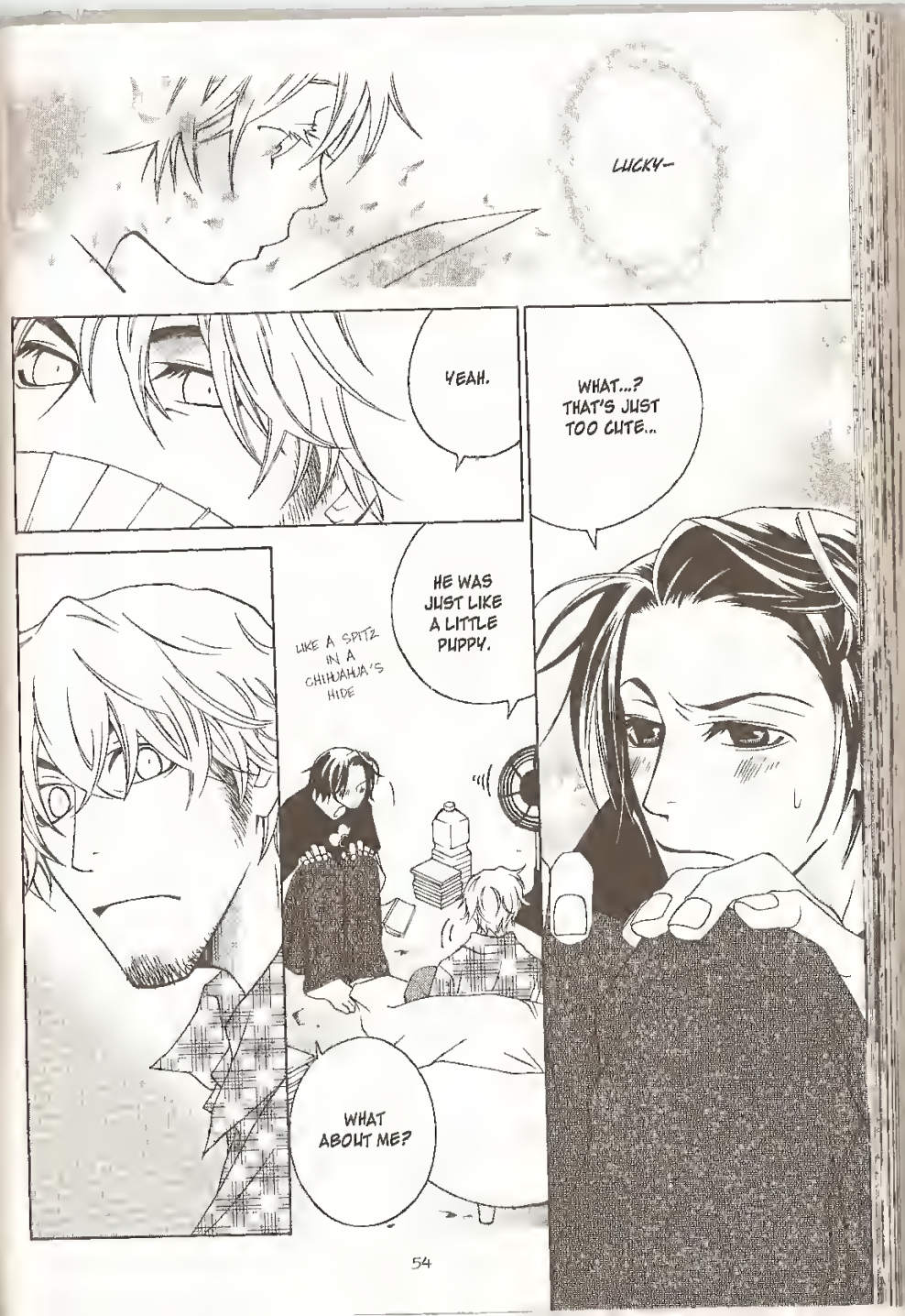

HIS LACK OF HEIGHT PUTS HIM AT A DISADVANTAGE IN MANY WAYS, BUT—
WHIRRR
HE TRIES HARD AND DOESN'T GIVE UP.
IF HE HITS THE RIGHT JOB, THERE'S NO DOUBT HE'LL BE GOING PLACES.
THAT DAISUKE—
HE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS PART-TIME JOB FOR A LONG WHILE
THIS IS MY CHANCE!
TWINKLE
HM?
YOU AND DAISUKE.
WHIRRR
ARE YOU CO-WORKERS OR SOMETHING?

IT'S NOT THAT YOU BECOME UNABLE TO SEE—
IT'S JUST THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE...
HUH? DAISUKE'S NOT COMING TODAY?
YEAH.
WHIRRR
...ANYONE ELSE OTHER THAN THAT PERSON.
...I LOVE HIM.
LOVE IS BLIND.
WHOA! THAT'S HUGE!
THWAP
TRY NOW!
JUMBO PARFAIT

A MANUAL AIR CONDITIONER
AND, WELL... YOU KNOW-
HE'S LIKE A CUTE LITTLE ANIMAL, ISN'T HE?
TA-DAH
WHOOO
I WANT NAKAHARA-SAN TO PHOTOGRAPH ME!
THE PUBLISHERS SYMPATHIZED WITH HIM...
...AND BROUGHT HIM OVER.
TO MY PLACE
AH, MEMORIES-
THAT'S HOW IT WENT.

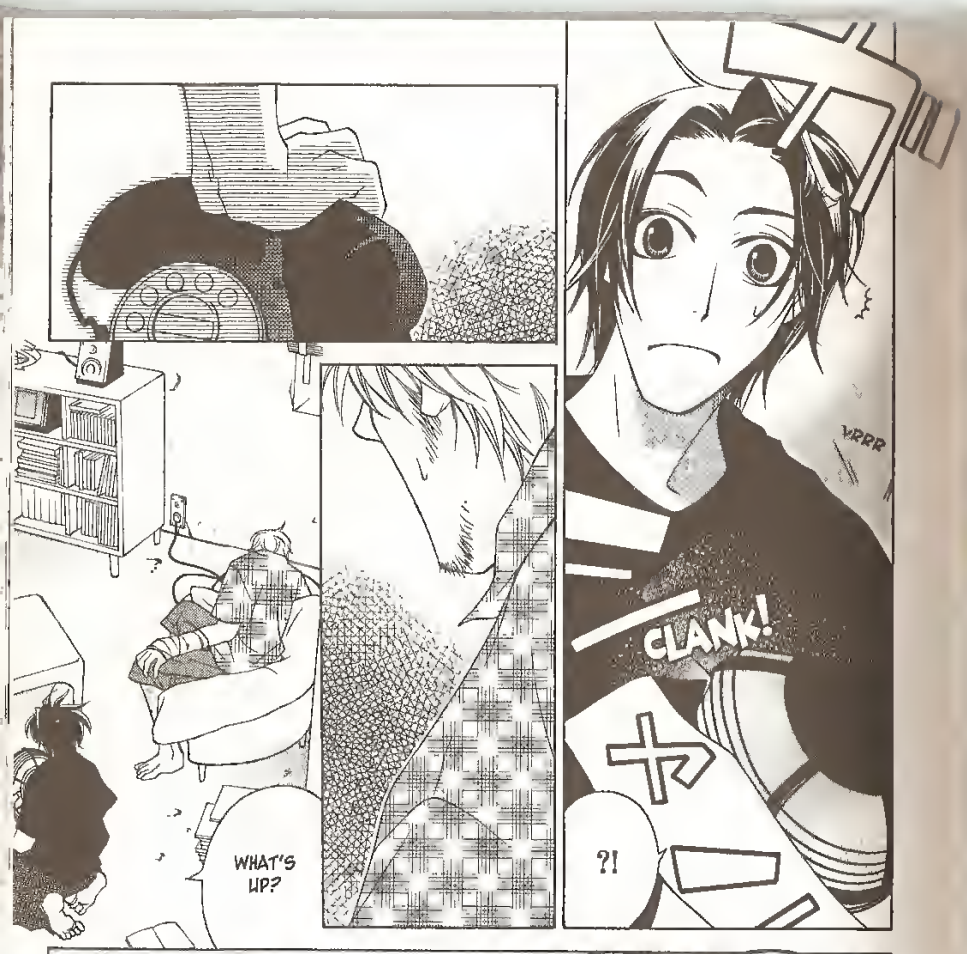

I REALLY SHOULD GET AN AIR CONDITIONER
UH...NO-
AS A CIVILIZED HUMAN BEING
CRYING...
PLEASE LET ME SEE KAORU NAKAHARA!
LET'S SEE... WHEN WAS IT?
HE'D SEEN ONE OF MY PHOTOS IN A MAGAZINE AND WENT BARGING IN TO THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE.
YEAH YOU SHOULD
LIKE THIS ONE
AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE

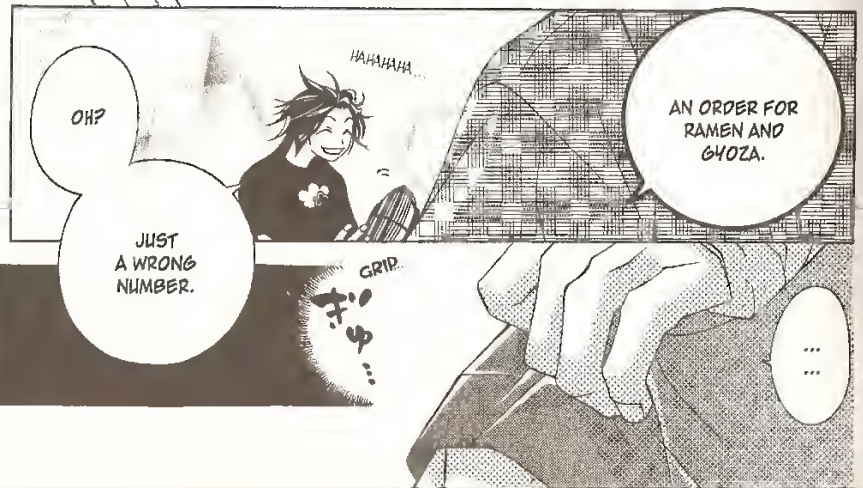
I COULD FEEL THAT SAME EMOTION COMING STRAIGHT THROUGH THE LENS...
I GUESS...
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
A COLLIE?
I MEANT...
WELL, YOU WERE LIKE, "I HATE YOU !!!"
ABOUT HOW WE FIRST MET.
YOU WERE REALLY AMUSING.
BUT REGARD-LESS...
TH-THAT'S RIGHT..
OH!
I WAS MEAN.

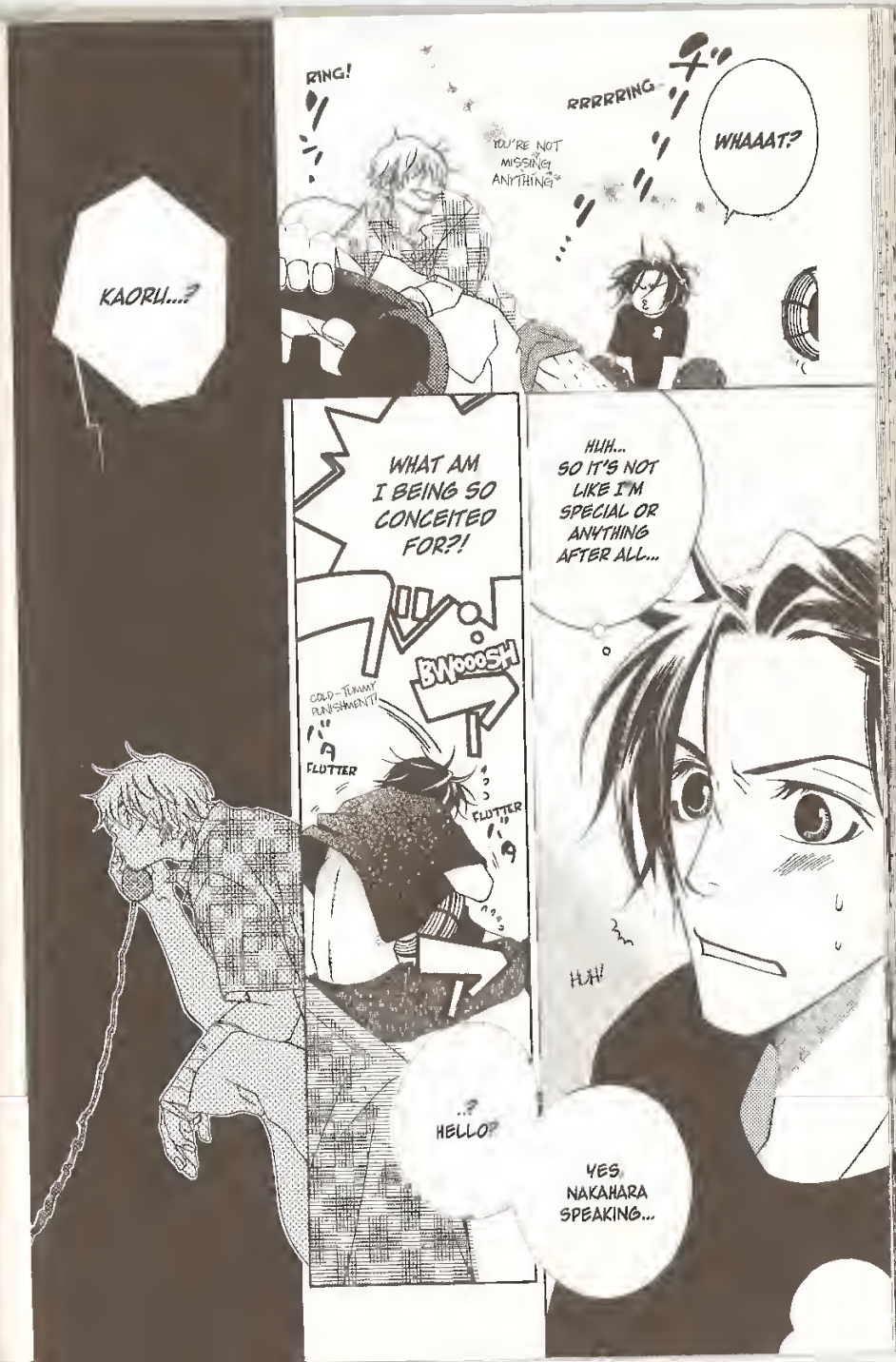

LUCKY-
YEAH.
WHAT...? THAT'S JUST TOO CUTE..
HE WAS JUST LIKE A LITTLE PUPPY.
LIKE A SPITZ IN A CHIHUAHUA'S HIDE
WHAT ABOUT ME?

YEAH...
...
...
HUH?
I WANT TO SEE.
WHIRRR
WELL...
MAYBE A LITTLE... IN THE PAST...
DOES THAT MEAN YOU USED TO BEFORE?
DAISUKE WAS SAYING YOU COULDN'T DO PHOTOGRAPHS OF PEOPLE.
NOPE. IT CREEPS ME OUT.
RI...

"AMUSING"...
A...
WHENEVER I POINT THE CAMERA...
EVERYONE SUDDENLY MUGS OR ACTS CUTE FOR THE LENS.
BUT YOU— YOU ONLY EVER SHOWED HOSTILITY.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE THAT I FELT I'D LIKE TO PHOTOGRAPH A PERSON AGAIN


WHAT'S UP?
VRRR
CLANK!
?!

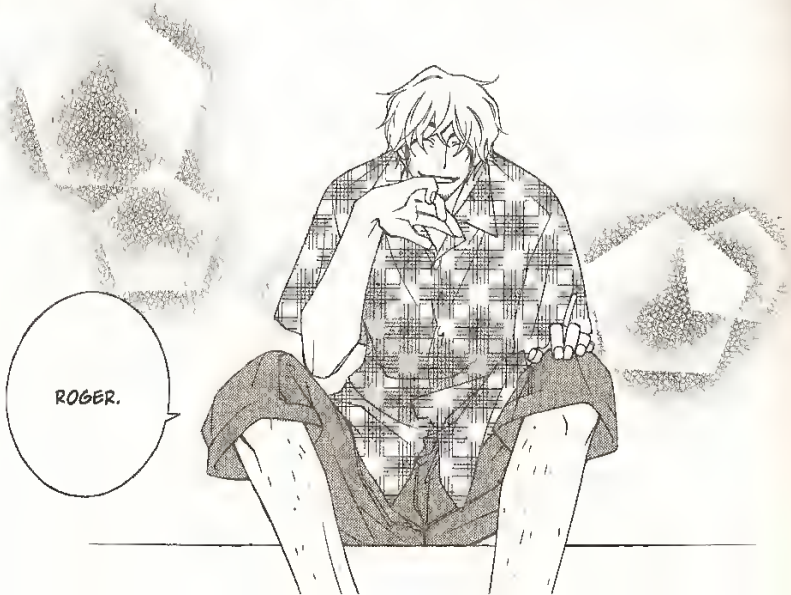

HAHAHAHA...
OH?
JUST A WRONG NUMBER.
AN ORDER FOR RAMEN AND GYOZA.
GRIP
...
...

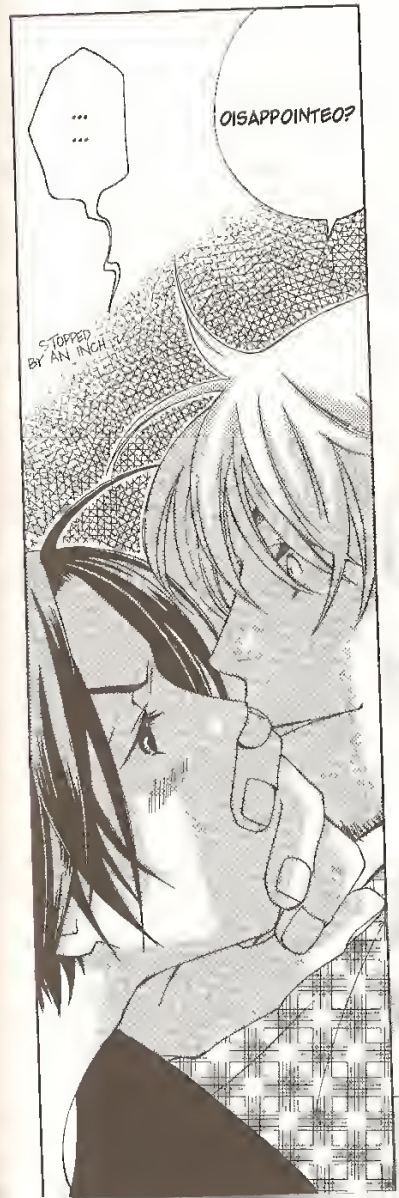

KAORU...?
RING!
RRRRRING...
YOU'RE NOT MISSING ANYTHING
WHAAAT?
WHAT AM I BEING SO CONCEITED FOR?!
BWOOOSH
COLD-TUMMY PUNISHMENT?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
HUH... SO IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SPECIAL OR ANYTHING AFTER ALL...
HUH
...?
HELLO?
YES, NAKAHARA SPEAKING...

I DUNNO.
AM I STILL RADIATING HOSTILITY?
WHAT ABOUT NOW?

FLICK
CAN I COME BY AGAIN TOMORROW?
SURE— BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR HOMEWORK?
I'LL BRING IT ALONG. SO TUTOR ME!
...
...
SNAP
OH, OKAY.
...HEY.
SORRY, AKIRA-KUN, BUT...
I'VE GOT A MEETING TO GET TO.
HM?

NO, I DON'T MIND.
BUT YOU'D BETTER BE OBSERVING PROPERLY.
BECAUSE DAISUKE AND ME—
WE BOTH LOVE YOU, YOU KNOW.


ROGER.


...
...
DISAPPOINTED?
STOPPED BY AN INCH!

I SUPPOSE...
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO OBSERVE YOU A LITTLE MORE.

I WONDER IF THIS IS HOW..
...KAORU NAKAHARA FELT BACK THEN.
CLANG!
I LOVE YOU.
IF IT WAS—
I'D BE HAPPY.

THERE'S SOMEONE I LOVE...
AND HE'S ANOTHER MAN.
RRRRING
A STUBBLY-BEARDED MAN.
RRRRRING
EACH TIME I TELL HIM I LOVE HIM, MY FEELINGS GROW STRONGER.
RRRRING

BEEP

BEEP-

BEEP..

...I'D BE SO HAPPY THAT HE FELT THE SAME WAY TOO.

CLATTER!

ガシャ

...
...

MORNIN'!
BUZZZ!
?!
...
...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

BZZZT
BUZZ...
SO IF YOU'RE IN A LOT OF PAIN...
...I FORGIVE YOU.

※ YOU SHOULD NOT BATTLE WITH CHOPSTICKS

KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK

WHO CARES? IT'S THE ATMOSPHERE THAT COUNTS!
IT'S JUST SPINNING IN CIRCLES
THIS IS A WEIRD TAKE ON NAGASHI SOMEN...
OH!
FOUND THE PINK ONE—
KLAK!

*NAGASHI SOMEN: FLOWING BUCKWHEAT NOODLES THAT ARE VERY THIN AND WHITE IN COLOR. THEY ARE PLACED IN WATER AND FLOW DOWN A BAMBOO TRACK. WHERE ONE CATCHES THEM WITH CHOPSTICKS AND EATS THEM IN A BROTH TO EAT.

REALLY?
BUT WHAT ABOUT CONTACTS FOR WORK AND STUFF...?
...?
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?
I'LL HAVE THEM TELEGRAM ME
SPEAKING OF WORK, HOW WAS IT? YOUR LAST PHOTO SHOOT.
JUST FOR AN INSTANT, HE SEEMED STRANGE...
IT'S A PAIN ANYWAY...

!!
YUP- CURRY FLAVORED
SERIOUSLY?
WHAAAT?
OH, IT BROKE.
BUT I FOUND IT!
A DATE, A DATE, A DATE!
HEY, THEN I'LL GO WITH YOU TO BUY A NEW ONE!
HMM?
..WHEN I SPILLED A CUP OF NOODLES ALL OVER IT.
CLING
CLING
PRONG!
HEY NO FAIR...!
NO...
IT'S ALRIGHT FOR NOW...

THERE'S NO MISTAKING THAT I'M THE FIRST GUY.
SLURRRP-
すぅ…
VWEEN
IF IT COMES OUT PRETTY GOOD, WILL YOU SHOOT ME NEXT, KAORU-CHAN?
THERE'S ONE GUY WHO HAS NO IDEA WHICH WAY TO GO AND ANOTHER GUY WITH A MAP.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT LEADS, OR HOW FAR IT GOES-
YOU JUST CAN'T TELL.
YEAH! SHOW US, SHOW US.
I'LL BRING YOU THE MAGAZINE WHEN IT COMES OUT!
JOY
JOY
AND SAY, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THAT ROAD-
AND SAY, AGAIN, FOR EXAMPLE-
MUNCH
MUNCH

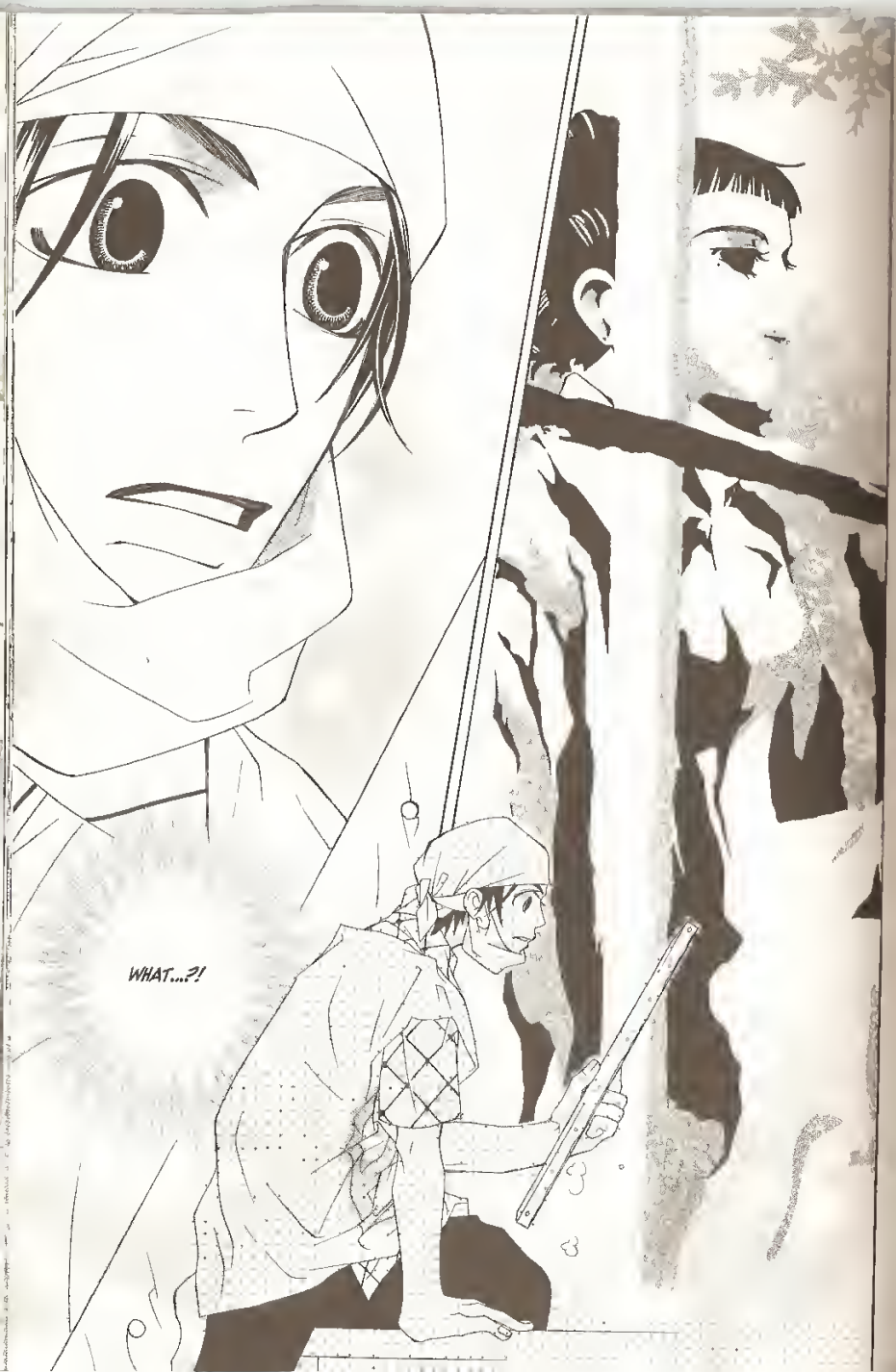
MUNCH
OH YEAH, YEAH- THAT'S RIGHT!
MAYBE IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION...
SLURRRP
AND THE PHOTOGRAPHER ASKED ME TO COME ROUND AGAIN FOR THE NEXT JOB, TOO!
I WASN'T THE MAIN MODEL OR ANYTHING, BUT...
I THINK I DID PRETTY GOOD.
HEY, THAT'S GREAT.
THERE'S A ROAD.
VWEEEN
SAY, FOR EXAMPLE...

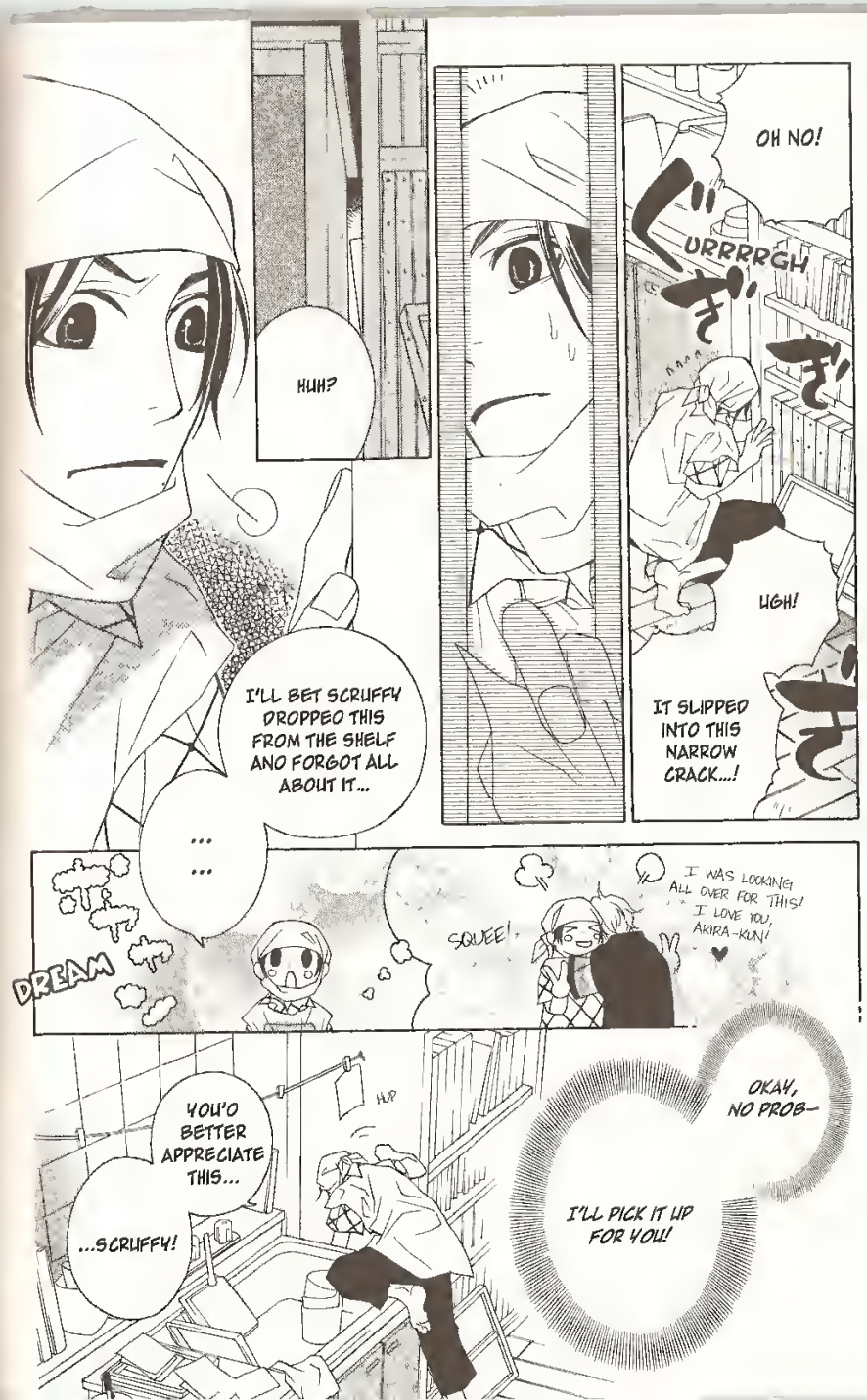
NO FAIR!
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT WORK!
ME TOO, ME TOO!
OHHH! THAT'S RIGHT
HMM—
I SUPPOSE...
MY CHANCE AT THE BIG TIME!!!
I MEAN, YOUR ARM'S NOT HEALED YET... I CAN HELP YOU OUT AGAIN!
YOU'D ONLY HAVE TO PAY ME IN MEALS.
THEN YES, PLEASE.

UM!
...TO BE HONEST, IT PUTS ME IN A PANIC.
PING!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT
A THIRD GUY APPEARS ON THE SCENE.
WOULDN'T THE GUY HOLDING THE MAP LOOK MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE TO HIM?
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT...
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO HIRE ME, NAKAHARA-SAN?
HUH?

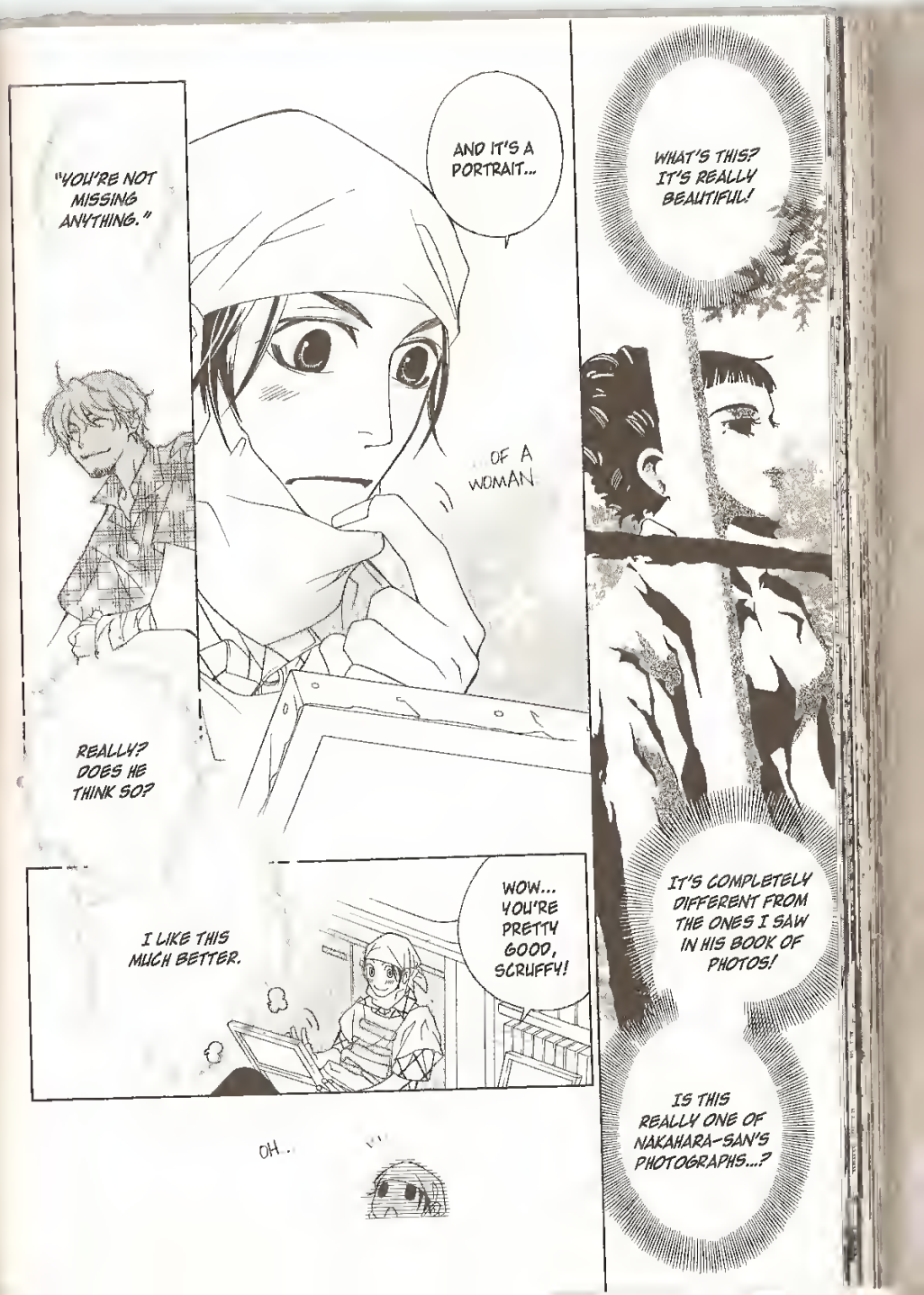
MMPH
WHOOOSH!
CRINKLE
CRINKLE
CRINKLE
CRINKLE
SLIP
!!!
WH... WHAT IS THIS?!
IT STINKS OF CHEMICALS...!
GRRAK!

SAD IS A GESTURE OF LOVE THAT MISSES ITS MARK
SORRY, I'VE JUST GOT THIS MEETING—
TIDY UP FOR ME, WOULD YOU
WORK HARD NOW...!
THUNK
SWSH!
CRINKLE
CRINKLE
I'LL START WITH THE DARKROOM!
FINE! I WILL! I'LL DO IT!
CRINKLE
DING!
CRINKLE
※ IMPROVISED CLEANING SMOCK (MADE FROM GARBAGE BAG)


WHAT...?!


HUH?
I'LL BET SCRUFFY DROPPED THIS FROM THE SHELF AND FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT...
...
...
OH NO!
URRRRGH
UGH!
IT SLIPPED INTO THIS NARROW CRACK...!
DREAM
SQUEE!
I WAS LOOKING ALL OVER FOR THIS! I LOVE YOU, AKIRA-KUN!
YOU'D BETTER APPRECIATE THIS...
...SCRUFFY!
HUP
OKAY, NO PROB—
I'LL PICK IT UP FOR YOU!

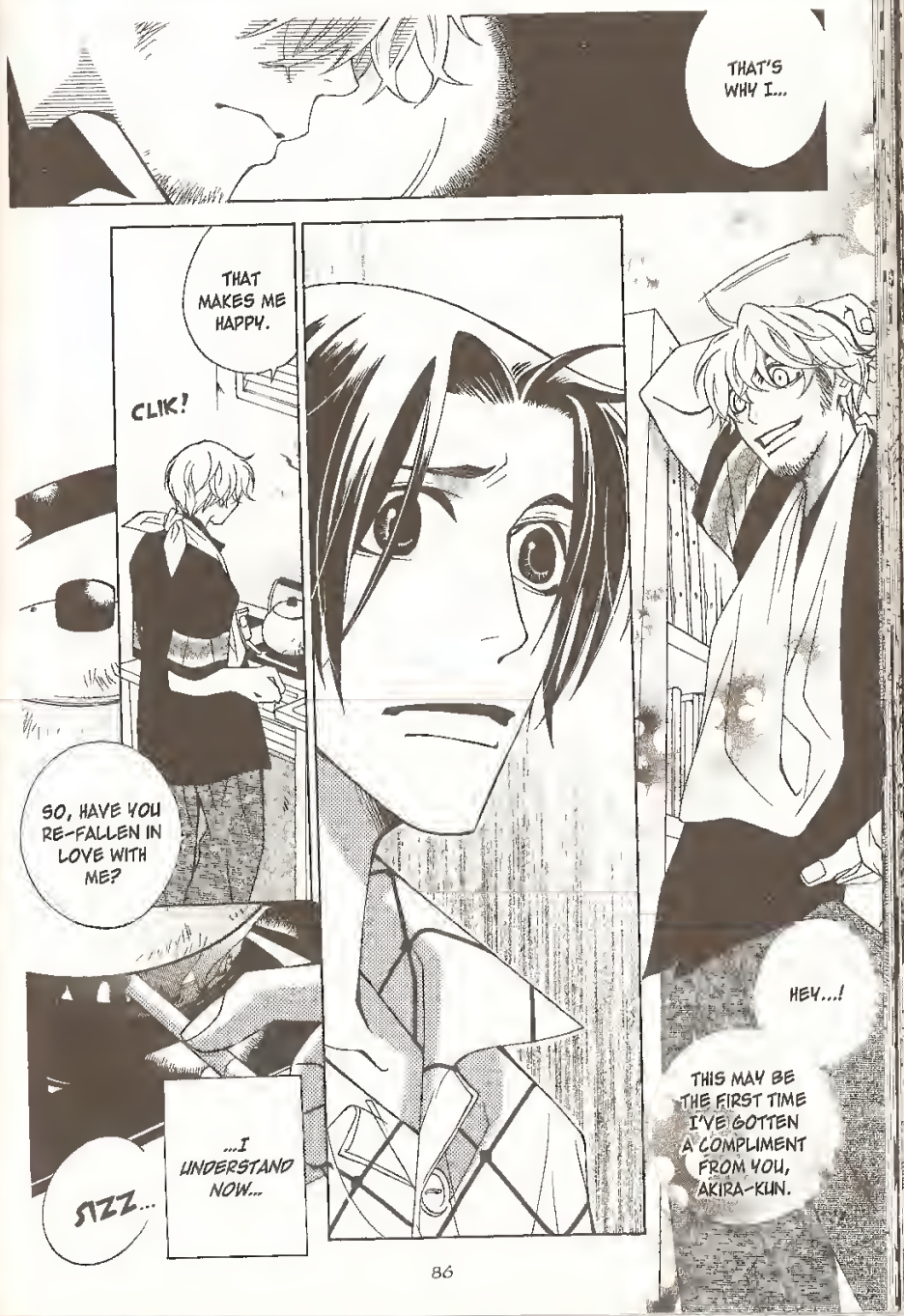
THIS IS THE RESULT....
DOOOM
土下座
KOW-TOW
I'M SORRY.
GASP!!
I WONDER WHERE THE PHOTOS OF ME ARE...?
I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY SEEN THEM YET
OH—
AHEM
I FOUND SOMETHING NICE FOR YOU...
BUT LOOK!
...AND...


"YOU'RE NOT MISSING ANYTHING."
AND IT'S A PORTRAIT...
OF A WOMAN
REALLY? DOES HE THINK SO?
I LIKE THIS MUCH BETTER.
WOW... YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD, SCRUFFY!
OH..
WHAT'S THIS? IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES I SAW IN HIS BOOK OF PHOTOS!
IS THIS REALLY ONE OF NAKAHARA-SAN'S PHOTOGRAPHS...?

W-H-A-P

SORRY, I...
I FOUND IT FALLEN BEHIND THE SHELF AND...
THUNK!
IT WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PHOTO...
S...
YOU DON'T...
...HAVE TO BOTHER WITH THAT.

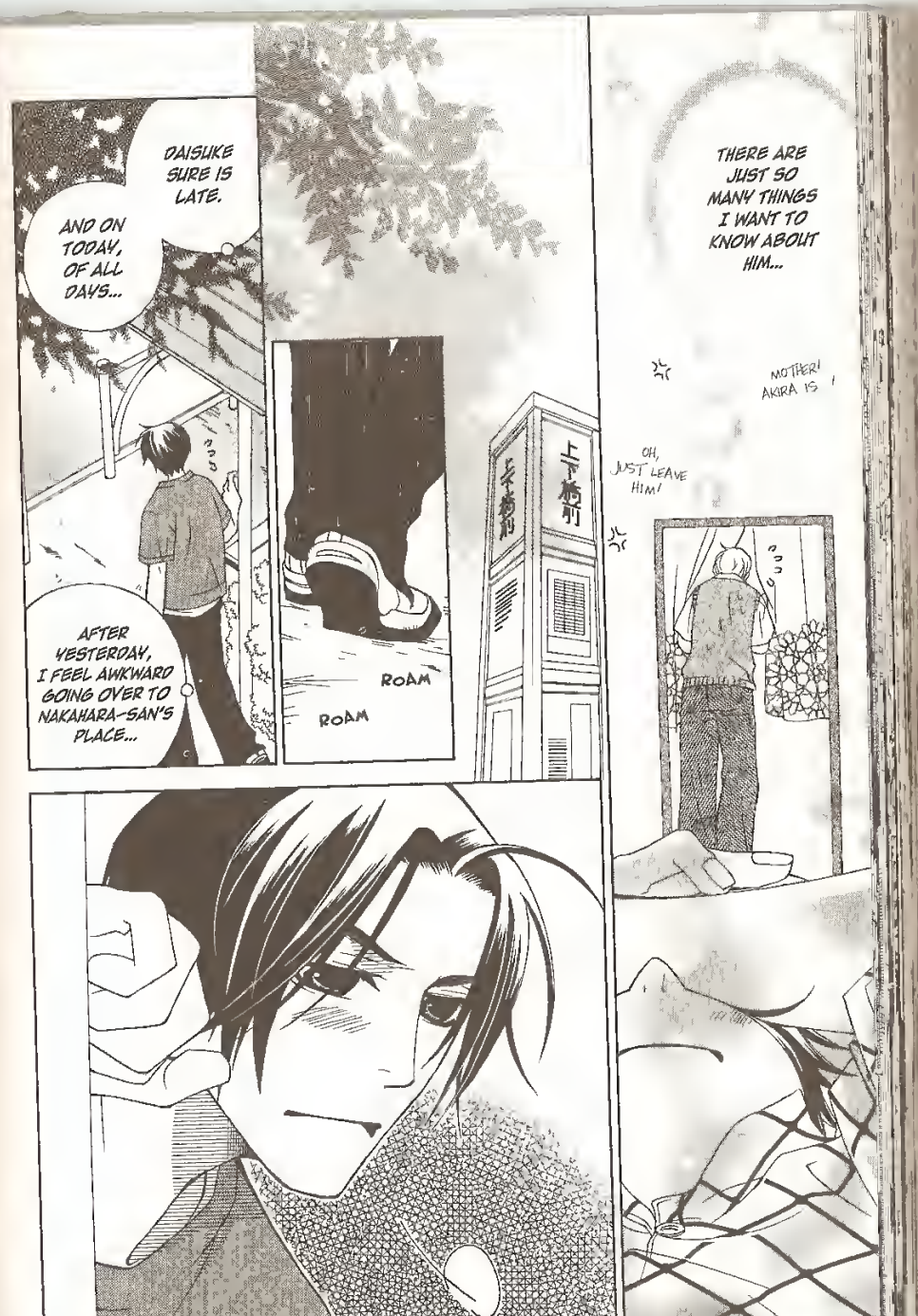
HE'S LYING.
THE STRANGENESS I SENSED THAT TIME—
IT'S JUST A PAIN.
WELL, I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE DAISUKE HELP US OUT WITH THIS ROOM TOMORROW.
HE'S UPSET AND ANGRY, BUT—
HE'S SMILING.
LET'S GO EAT.
I'M REALLY SORRY...


THAT'S WHY I...
CLIK!
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
SO, HAVE YOU RE-FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME?
SIZZ...
...I UNDERSTAND NOW...
HEY...!
THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE GOTTEN A COMPLIMENT FROM YOU, AKIRA-KUN.

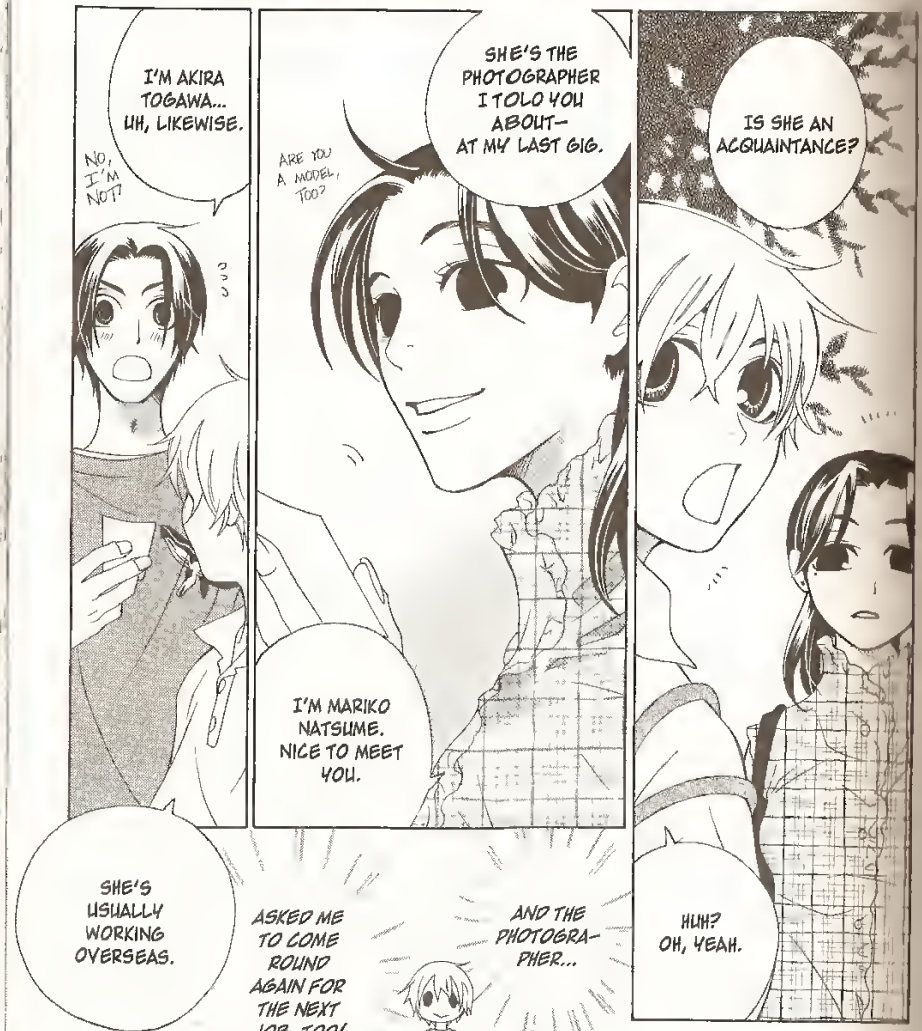
ROLL...
I WONDER WHAT THE DEAL IS... IT'S SUCH A PRETTY PICTURE...
BUT IT'S LIKE HE WANTS TO HIDE IT...
EVEN ENOUGH TO LIE.
HEY, I LOVE THE GUY—

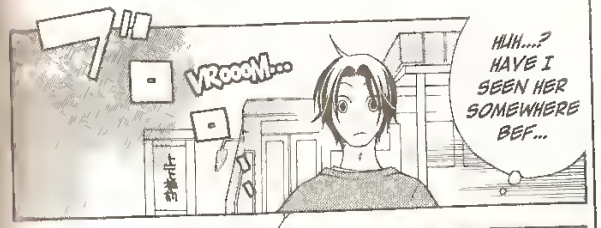
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
SIGH...
OH—
WELCOME HOME, AKIRA...
?
MOTHER? AKIRA'S HUNCHED OVER IN THE ENTRYWAY...
WHAT?
BUT...
I'M JUST A WALKING DISASTER...

OH NO!!! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
OW
YOU SCARED ME—
I'LL JUST GO AND VISIT, LIKE I ALWAYS DO!
NO!
IT PROBABLY WASN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL!
I'M JUST BLOWING IT ALL OUT OF PROPORTION THINKING ABOUT IT, THAT'S ALL!
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
はっ!!
WHIP!
EEK...!
上下橋前


DAISUKE SURE IS LATE.
AND ON TODAY, OF ALL DAYS...
AFTER YESTERDAY, I FEEL AWKWARD GOING OVER TO NAKAHARA-SAN'S PLACE...
ROAM
ROAM
上下橋前
THERE ARE JUST SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HIM...
MOTHER! AKIRA IS
OH, JUST LEAVE HIM!

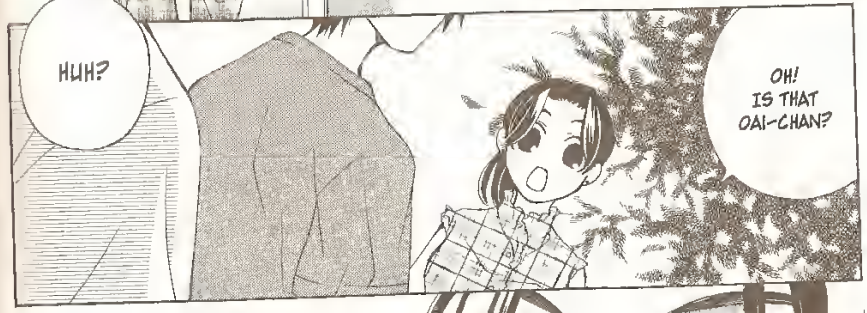
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME "SENSEI"!
YES, MA'AM...
UM—

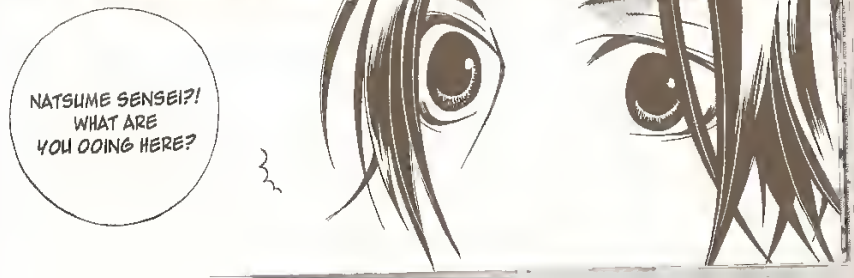

I'M AKIRA TOGAWA... UH, LIKEWISE.
NO, I'M NOT?
SHE'S THE PHOTOGRAPHER I TOLD YOU ABOUT— AT MY LAST GIG.
ARE YOU A MODEL, TOO?
I'M MARIKO NATSUME. NICE TO MEET YOU.
IS SHE AN ACQUAINTANCE?
HUH? OH, YEAH.
SHE'S USUALLY WORKING OVERSEAS.
ASKED ME TO COME ROUND AGAIN FOR THE NEXT JOB, TOO!
AND THE PHOTOGRA-PHER...

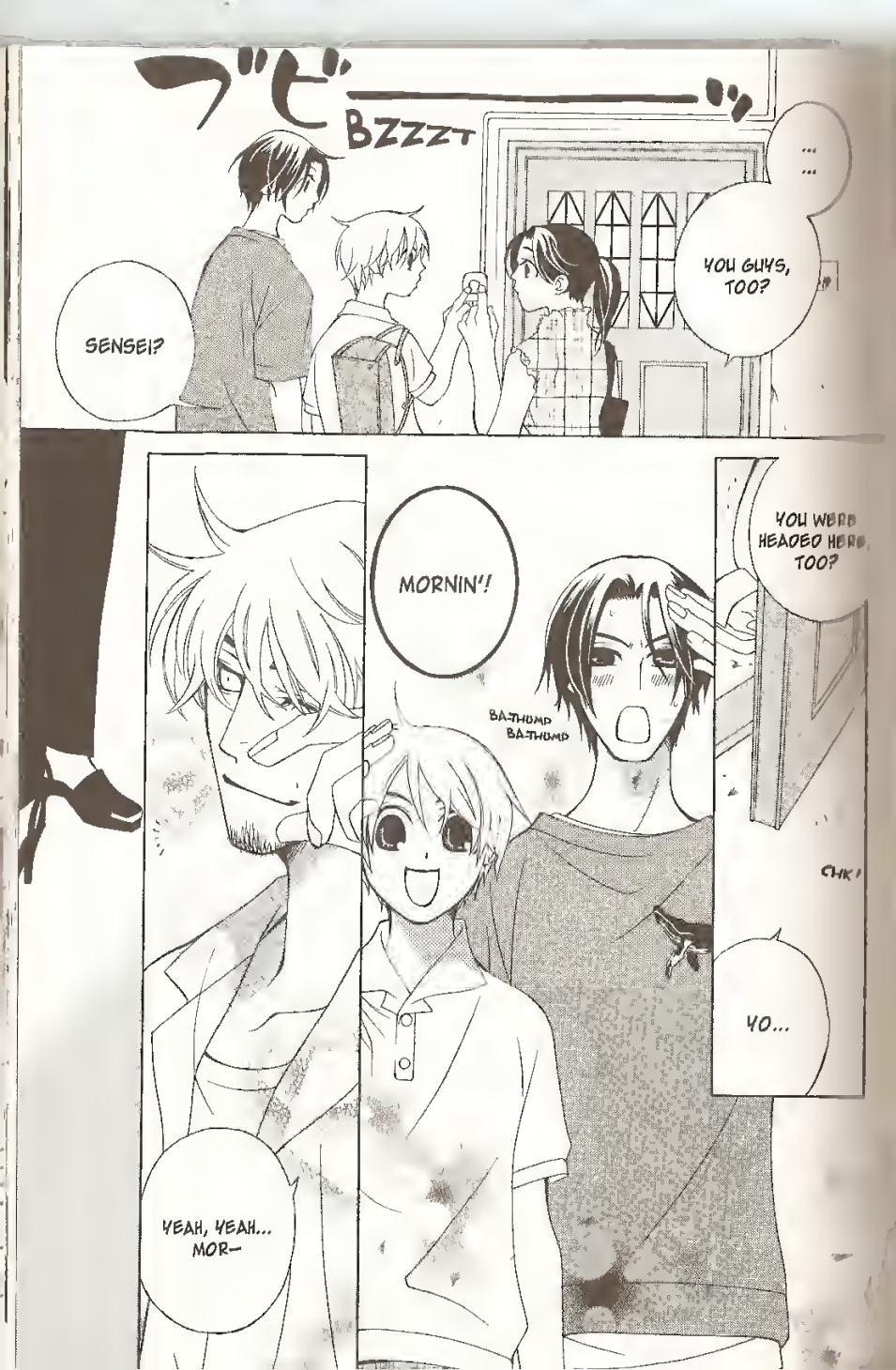

VROOOM...
HUH...? HAVE I SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEF...

WHAT'RE YOU D—
PSSHHT

YOU TURNED AROUND SO SUDDENLY.


HUH?
OH! IS THAT OAI-CHAN?


NATSUME SENSEI?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


BZZZT
SENSEI?
YOU GUYS, TOO?
...
...
MORNIN'!
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
YEAH, YEAH... MOR—
YOU WERE HEADED HERE, TOO?
CHK!
YO...

HUH...
IS YOUR HOUSE AROUND HERE, OAI-CHAN?
A BUSINESS CARD
I CAME TO SEE SOMEONE I KNOW.
NO, I JUST CAME DOWN TO VISIT. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ALTHOUGH SHE DOESN'T SEEM MUCH LIKE A PHOTOGRAPHER...
SHE SEEMS KIND... AND NICE.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
SHE'S REALLY THE EMBODIMENT OF A WOMAN...
OH? SO AM I!
WE'RE HEADED THIS WAY, SO...
WELL...
HUH?
...HUH?
NAKAHARA

Camera Camera Camera

カメラ・カメラ・カメラ

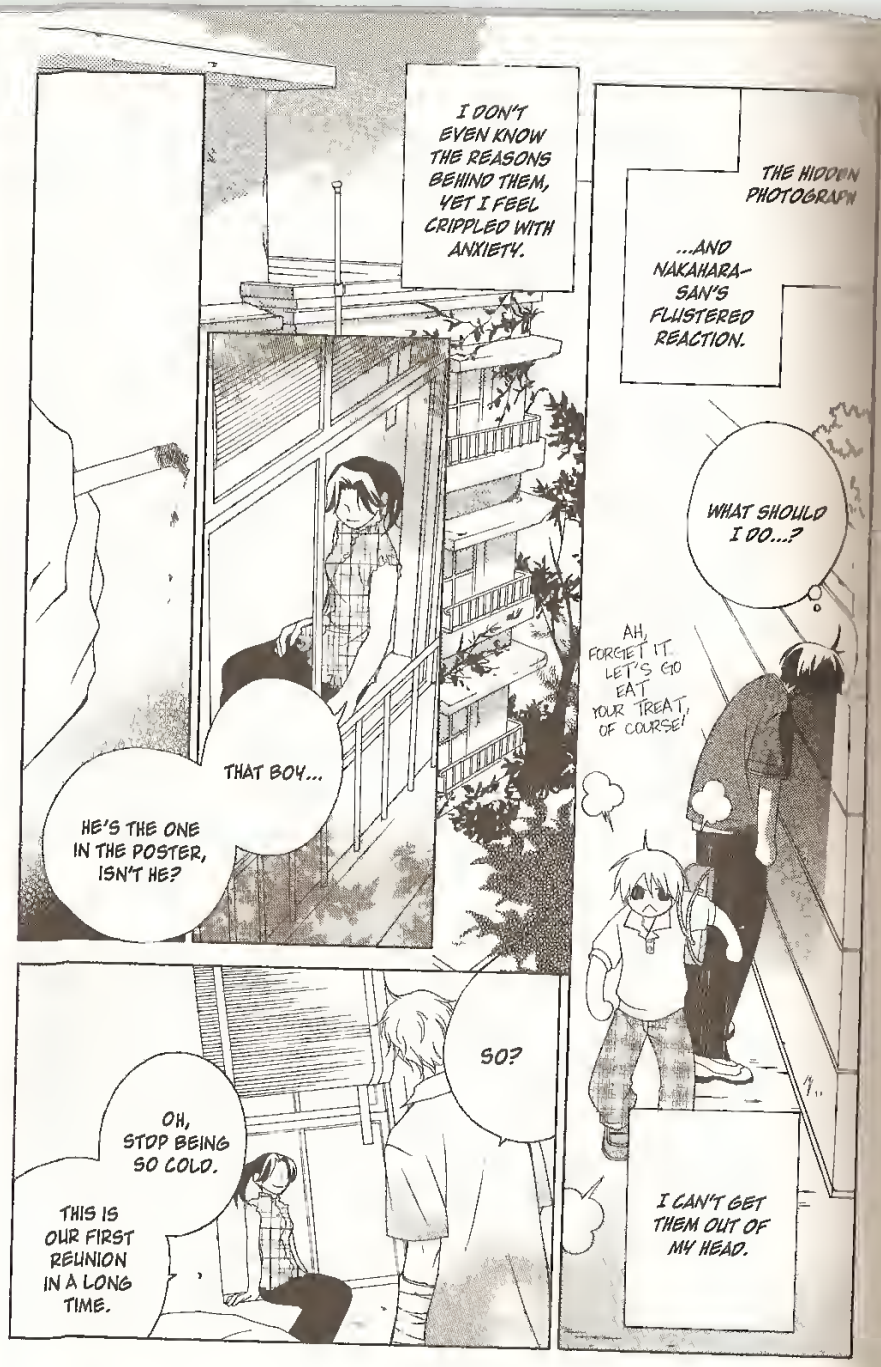
shot.10

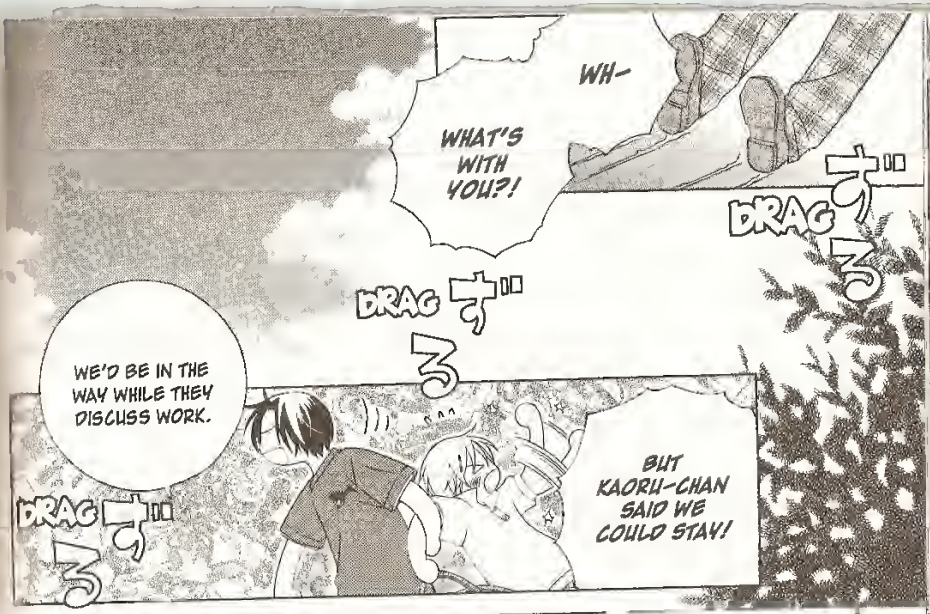
MORNIN'.

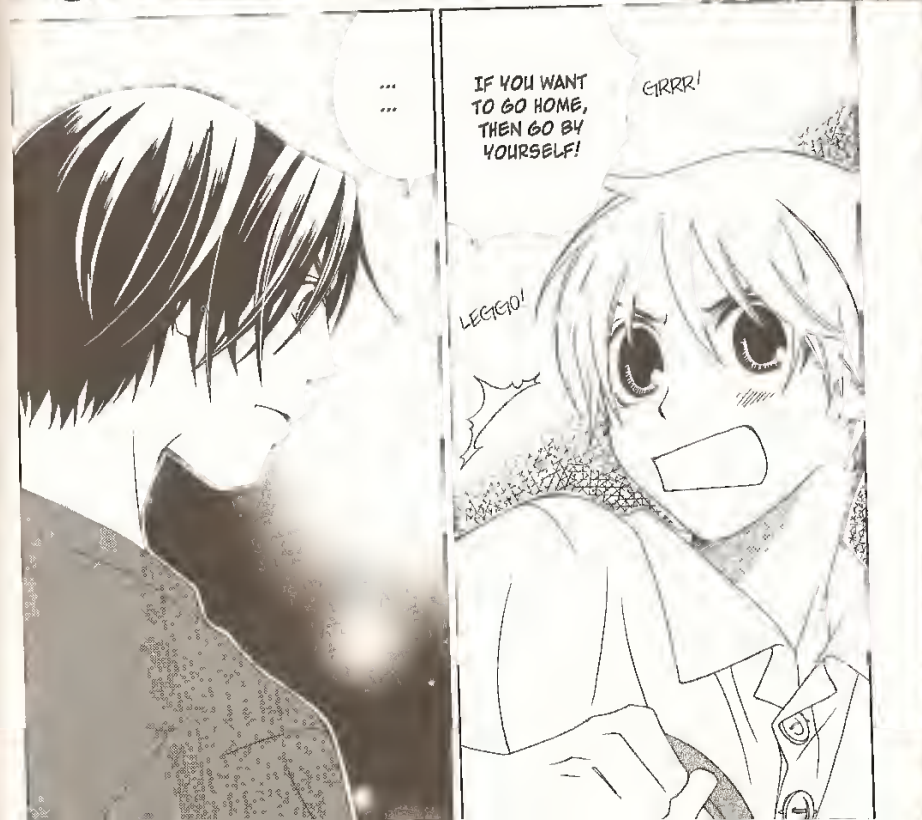
THIS WOMAN...

...IS THE ONE IN THE PORTRAIT...?!

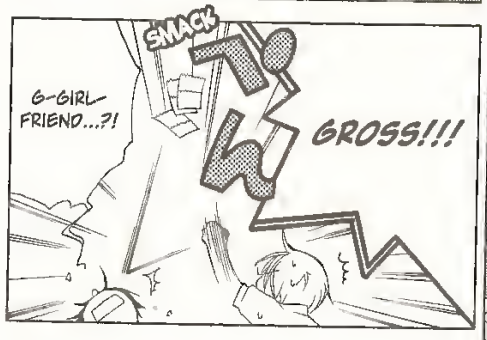
LONG TIME NO SEE, KAORU.

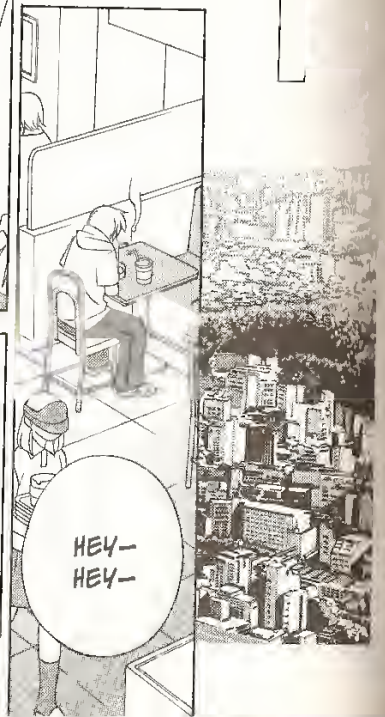

I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE REASONS BEHIND THEM, YET I FEEL CRIPPLED WITH ANXIETY.
THE HIDDEN PHOTOGRAPH
...AND NAKAHARA-SAN'S FLUSTERED REACTION.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
AH, FORGET IT. LET'S GO EAT YOUR TREAT, OF COURSE!
I CAN'T GET THEM OUT OF MY HEAD.
THAT BOY...
HE'S THE ONE IN THE POSTER, ISN'T HE?
SO?
OH, STOP BEING SO COLD.
THIS IS OUR FIRST REUNION IN A LONG TIME.


WH-
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
DRAG
WE'D BE IN THE WAY WHILE THEY DISCUSS WORK.
BUT KAORU-CHAN SAID WE COULD STAY!

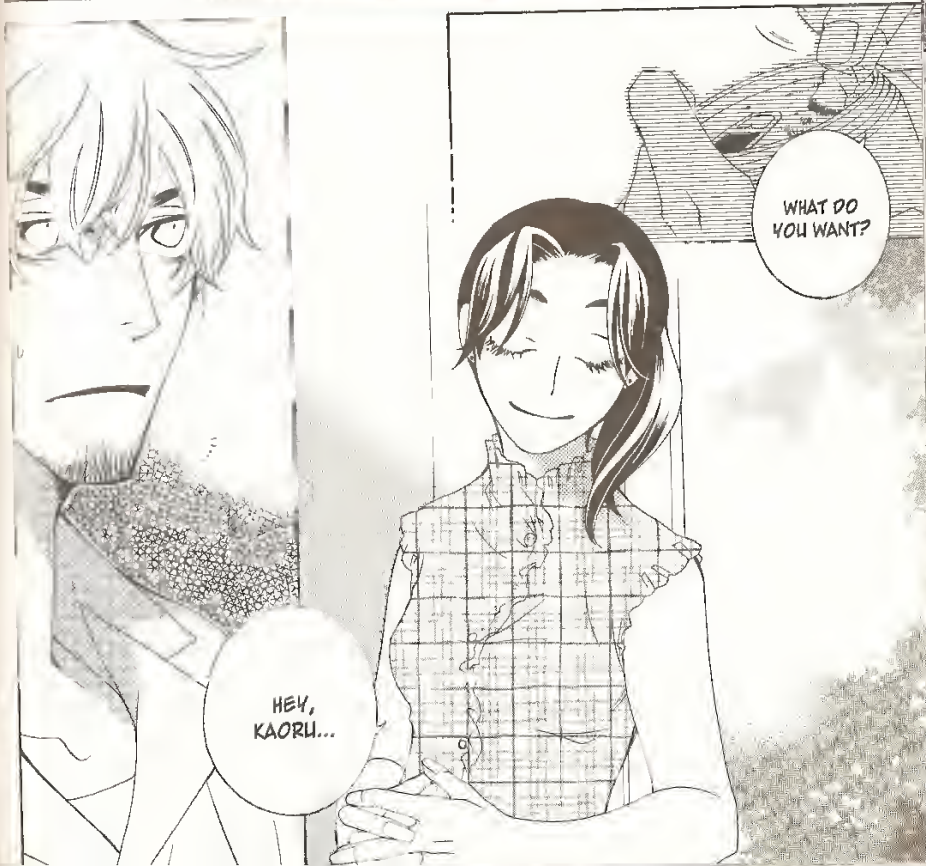

...
...
IF YOU WANT TO GO HOME, THEN GO BY YOURSELF!
GRRR!
LEGGO!

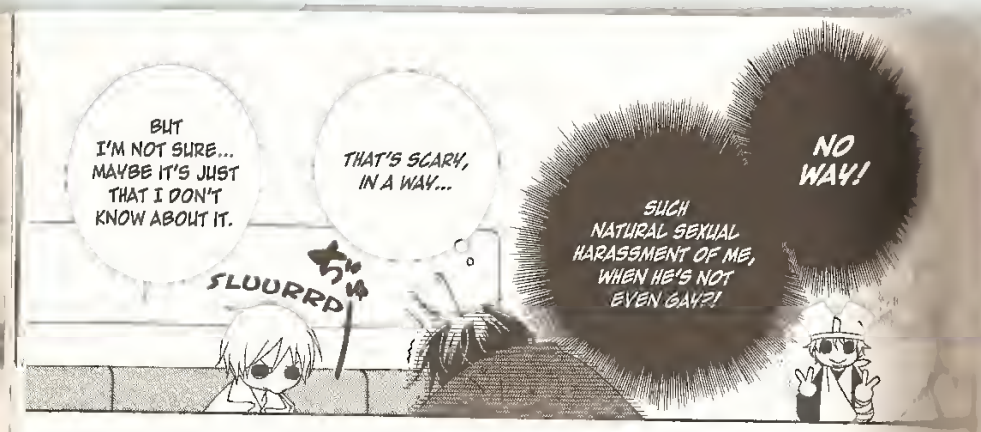
ボトト
PLOP
ABOUT NATSUME SENSEI...
...DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN BEING MY PARTNER?
DO YOU THINK...
...SHE USED TO BE KAORU-CHAN'S GIRLFRIEND?


SMACK
G-GIRL-FRIEND...?!
GROSS!!!


HEY- HEY-

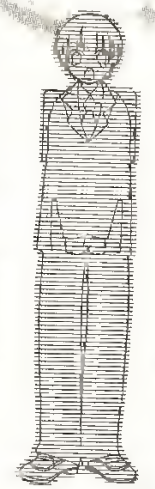
I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND YOU'RE STILL USING THIS ROOM, BUT...
AND?

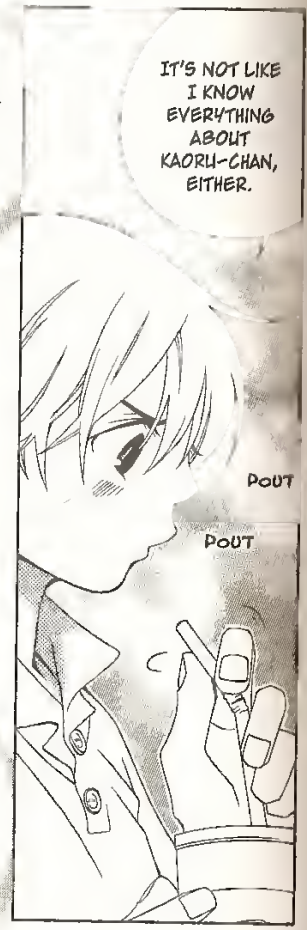

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HEY, KAORU...


BUT I'M NOT SURE... MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.
THAT'S SCARY, IN A WAY...
SLURRP
NO WAY!
SUCH NATURAL SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF ME, WHEN HE'S NOT EVEN GAY?!

YEAH?
HEY... THAT FIRST PHOTO OF HIS YOU SAW...
IT WASN'T A PORTRAIT... RIGHT?

NO, IT'S JUST...
SORRY, YEAH...
KAORU-CHAN TOLD YOU, DIDN'T HE?!
YEAH, IT WASN'T. SO?
BLUSH

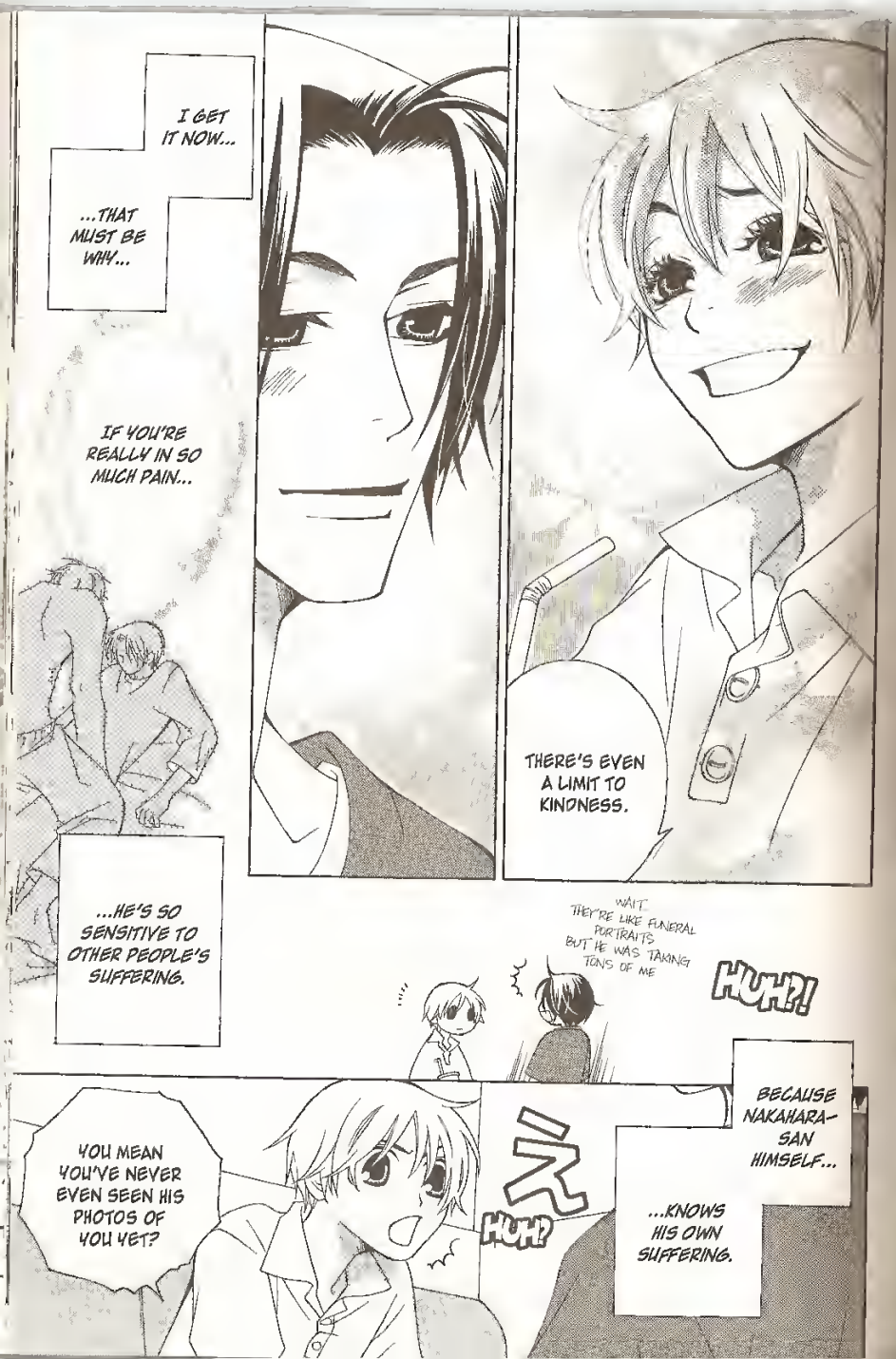

HE'D SEEN ONE OF MY PHOTOS AND WENT BARGING IN TO THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE...


IT'S NOT LIKE I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT KAORU-CHAN, EITHER.
POUT
POUT
CRYING...

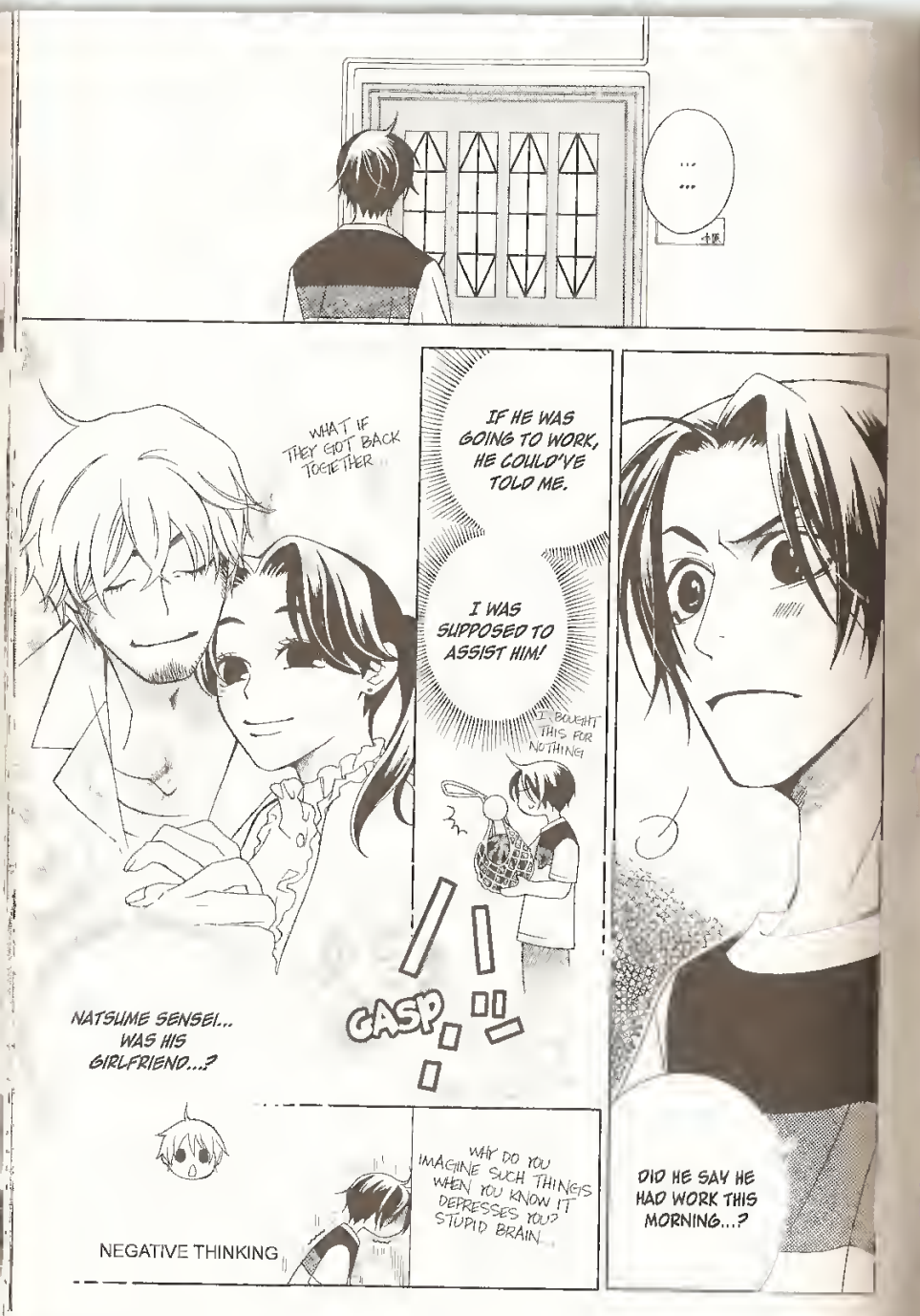
STARE
STARE
SHH-
SHH-
SHH-!
IS... ISN'T NAKAHARA-SAN... GAY...?
WHISPER WHISPER
G...
B... BUT THAT'S... WELL...
BUT...
I'M JUST IN LOVE WITH HIM CUZ I WANNA BE.
I'VE NEVER HEARD ANY RUMORS THAT HE WAS GAY.
IN THE INDUSTRY
HUH?

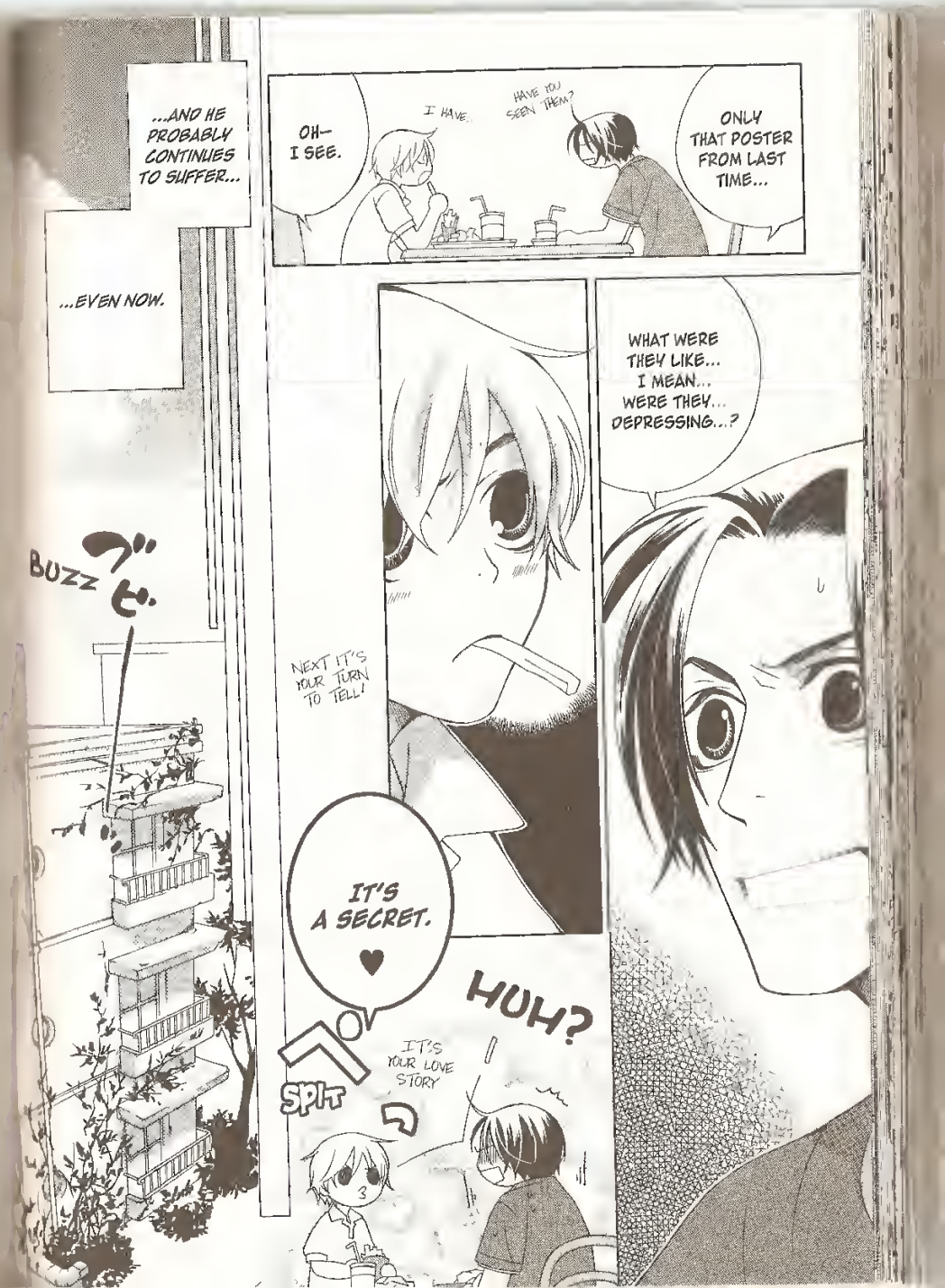
YOU SEE...
I USED TO BE BULLIED.
BUT... THEN WHY...
REALLY DISMAL PHOTOS...
AS IF LOSS IS THE PRESUMPTION BEHIND EVERYTHING.
PICKED ON DAY AFTER DAY...
I WAS EVEN CUT LOOSE BY THE PERSON I LOVED.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED HIM TO TAKE MY PICTURE.

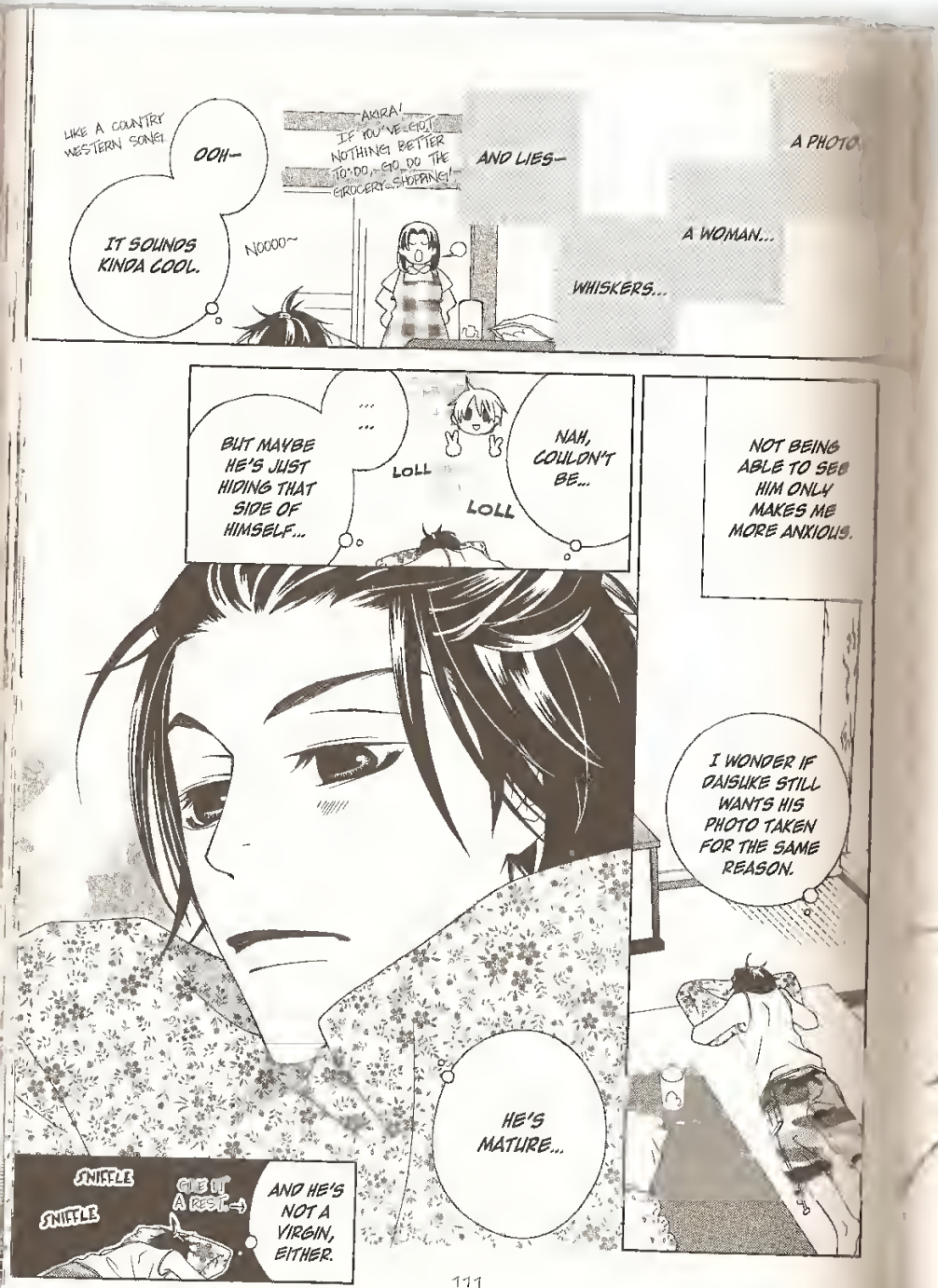
THEY'RE LIKE FUNERAL PORTRAITS, AREN'T THEY?
!
IF IT WAS THE PHOTOGRAPH OF NATSUME-SAN THAT DAISUKE HAD SEEN...
...I COULD UNDERSTAND WHY HE'D WANT TO HAVE NAKAHARA-SAN TAKE HIS PHOTO, BUT...
BECAUSE...
I DUNNO... ALL OF NAKAHARA-SAN'S PHOTOGRAPHS...
....ALL HIS PHOTOS NOW ARE LIKE-


I GET IT NOW...
...THAT MUST BE WHY...
IF YOU'RE REALLY IN SO MUCH PAIN...
...HE'S SO SENSITIVE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S SUFFERING.
THERE'S EVEN A LIMIT TO KINDNESS.
WAIT. THEY'RE LIKE FUNERAL PORTRAITS. BUT HE WAS TAKING TONS OF ME
HUH?!
YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIS PHOTOS OF YOU YET?
HUH?
BECAUSE NAKAHARA-SAN HIMSELF...
...KNOWS HIS OWN SUFFERING.

...MY FINAL PHOTOGRAPH.
BUT—
...
...
KAORU-CHAN WOULDN'T DO IT.
UNFAIR, ISN'T IT? ALL HE DOES IS TAKE DEPRESSING PHOTOS...
...YET HE WOULDN'T TAKE A DEPRESSING PHOTO OF ME.

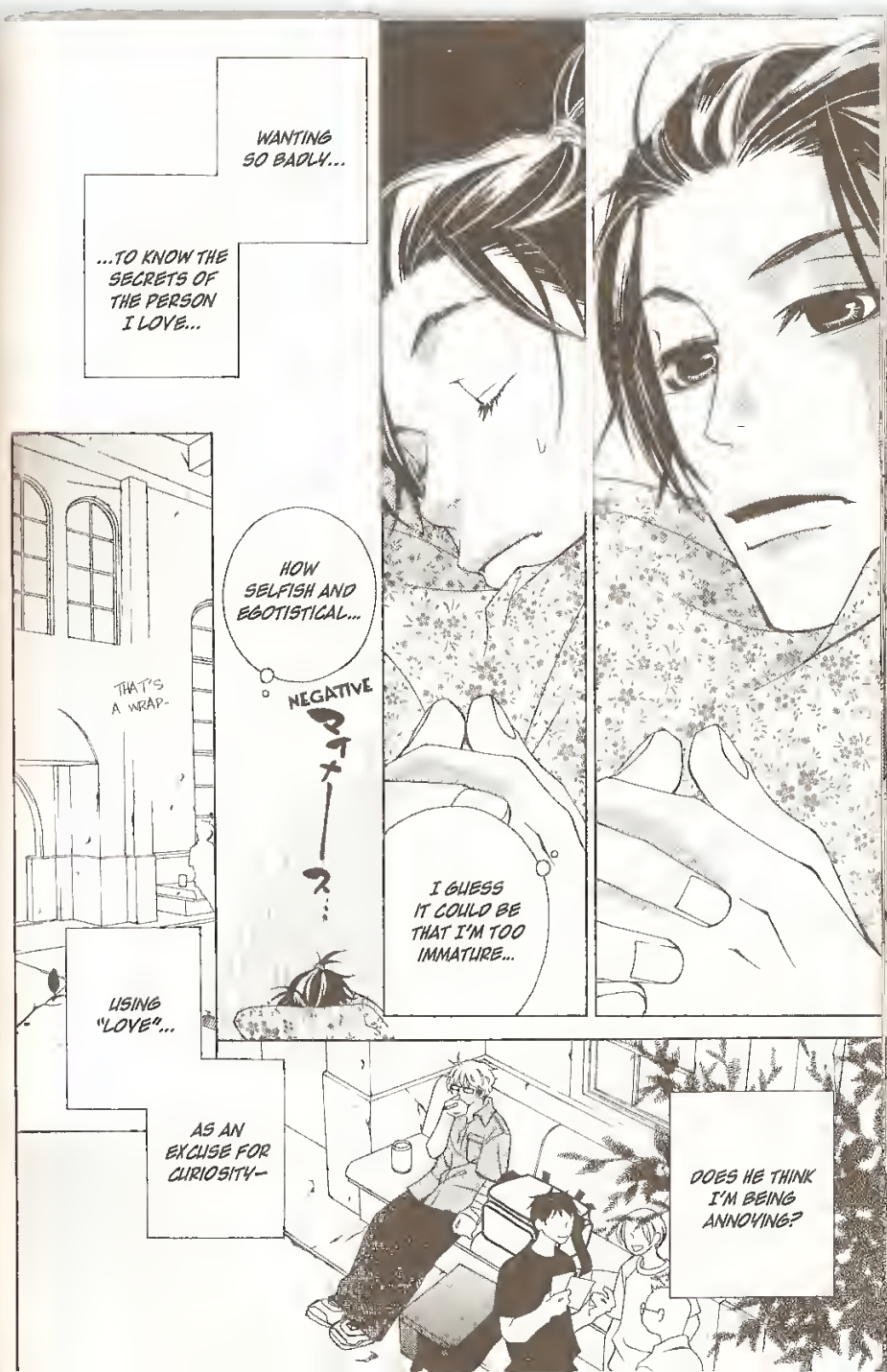

...
...
WHAT IF THEY GOT BACK TOGETHER...
IF HE WAS GOING TO WORK, HE COULD'VE TOLD ME.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO ASSIST HIM!
I BOUGHT THIS FOR NOTHING!
GASP
NATSUME SENSEI... WAS HIS GIRLFRIEND...?
DID HE SAY HE HAD WORK THIS MORNING...?
NEGATIVE THINKING
WHY DO YOU IMAGINE SUCH THINGS WHEN YOU KNOW IT DEPRESSES YOU? STUPID BRAIN.


...AND HE PROBABLY CONTINUES TO SUFFER...
...EVEN NOW.
BUZZ
OH— I SEE.
I HAVE.
HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?
ONLY THAT POSTER FROM LAST TIME...
WHAT WERE THEY LIKE... I MEAN... WERE THEY... DEPRESSING...?
NEXT IT'S YOUR TURN TO TELL!
IT'S A SECRET. ♥
SPIT
HUH?
IT'S YOUR LOVE STORY


LIKE A COUNTRY WESTERN SONG!
OOH—
IT SOUNDS KINDA COOL.
AKIRA! IF YOU'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO, GO DO THE GROCERY SHOPPING!
NOOOO~
AND LIES—
A PHOTO
A WOMAN...
WHISKERS...
BUT MAYBE HE'S JUST HIDING THAT SIDE OF HIMSELF...
...
...
LOLL
LOLL
NAH, COULDN'T BE...
NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE HIM ONLY MAKES ME MORE ANXIOUS.
I WONDER IF DAISUKE STILL WANTS HIS PHOTO TAKEN FOR THE SAME REASON.
HE'S MATURE...
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
TAKE A REST
AND HE'S NOT A VIRGIN, EITHER.

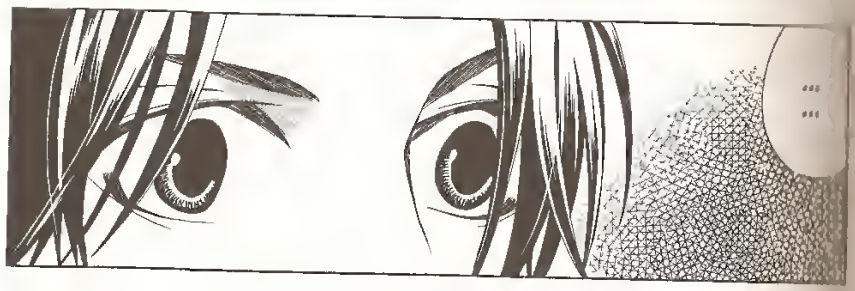
LAZE
MM...
ANOTHER DAY OFF FROM YOUR PART-TIME JOB?
SHE'D KILL ME...
GIMME A BREAK
I'M STUDYING WITH MIYATA-SAN AT THE LIBRARY
IF YOU'RE BORED, WANNA COME WITH?
HUH?
THEN YES, PLEASE.
I SHOULD'VE FORCED HIM TO BUY A NEW PHONE.
...THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
BUT HE'S OUT EVERY TIME I GO OVER TO SEE HIM.

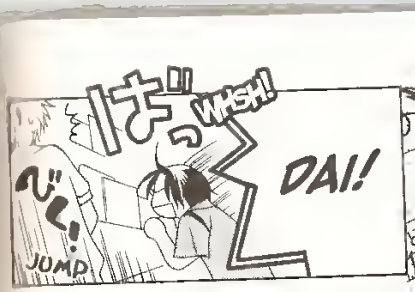
...HARA.
NAKAHARA!
HUH?
WHADDAYA MEAN, "HUH?"
WE'RE ALL GOING OUT FOR A DRINK. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
...
...
I'LL GO!
WHAT?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING...!
"DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN BEING MY PARTNER?"
OF COURSE YOU'D BE THE ONE IN CONTROL OF THE SHUTTER.
IS IT UNFAIR?


WANTING SO BADLY...
...TO KNOW THE SECRETS OF THE PERSON I LOVE...
HOW SELFISH AND EGOTISTICAL...
NEGATIVE
ティー?...
I GUESS IT COULD BE THAT I'M TOO IMMATURE...
THAT'S A WRAP-
USING "LOVE"...
AS AN EXCUSE FOR CURIOSITY-
DOES HE THINK I'M BEING ANNOYING?

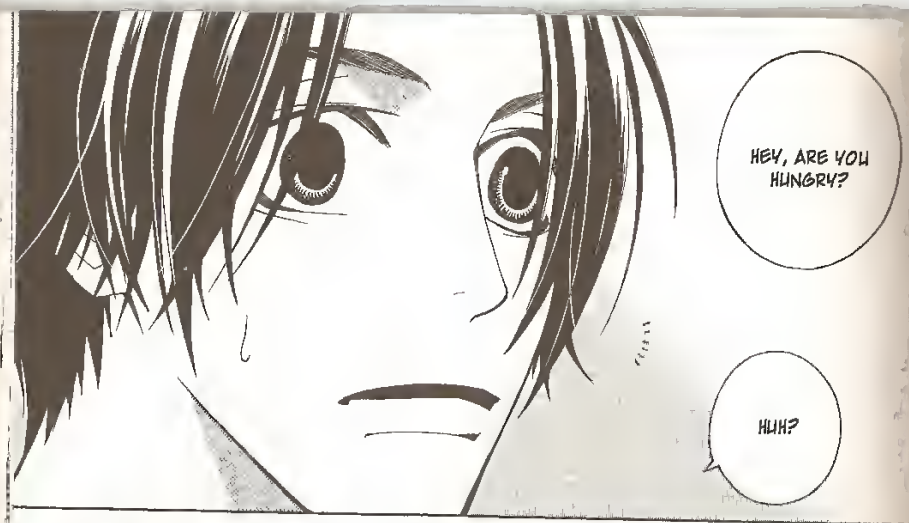
YOU SEE, I'VE HAD ENOUGH—
#372
THE LIES...
THE STRESS...
WHOA! THE POSTER'S REALLY UP! FOR REAL!
BLUSH

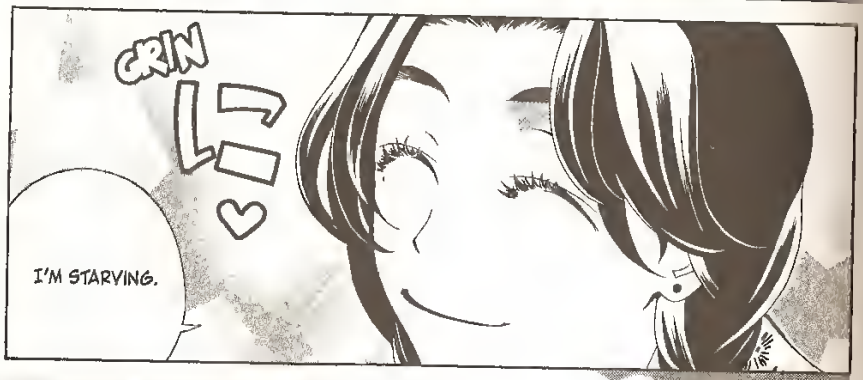
?!
DO YOU REMEMBER? THAT PHOTOGRAPH—
WHAT THE CLIENT WANTS IS THE TALENT OF THE PERSON WHO TOOK THAT PHOTOGRAPH. YOURS.
I'D JUST BE YOUR ASSISTANT.
I WAS GIVEN A JOB OFFER.
THE TERMS ARE GOOD, TOO.
...WHY WOULD I WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH A JOB OF YOURS...?



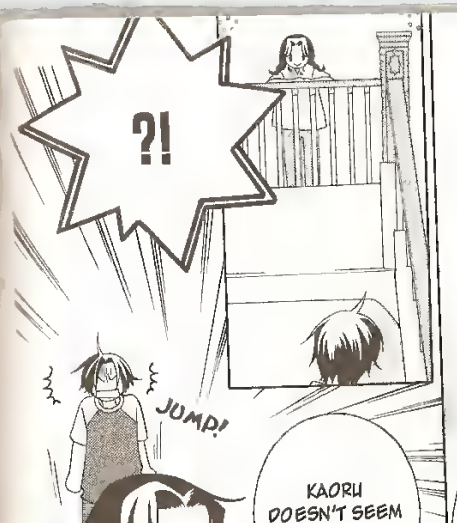


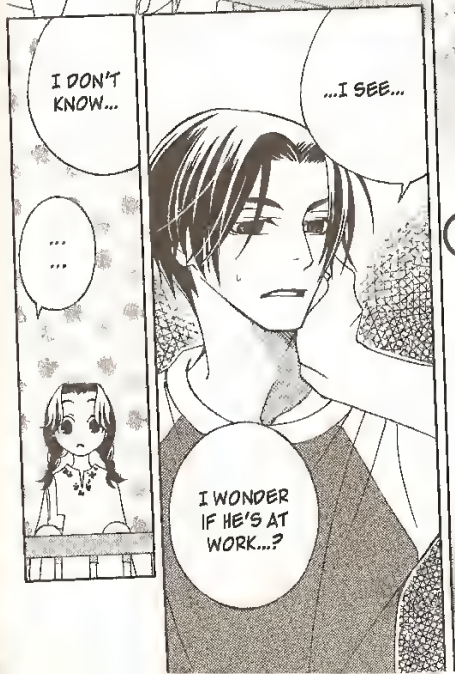
COVER STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER/ MARIKO NATSUME
MODEL/ KOTOKO, DAISUKE

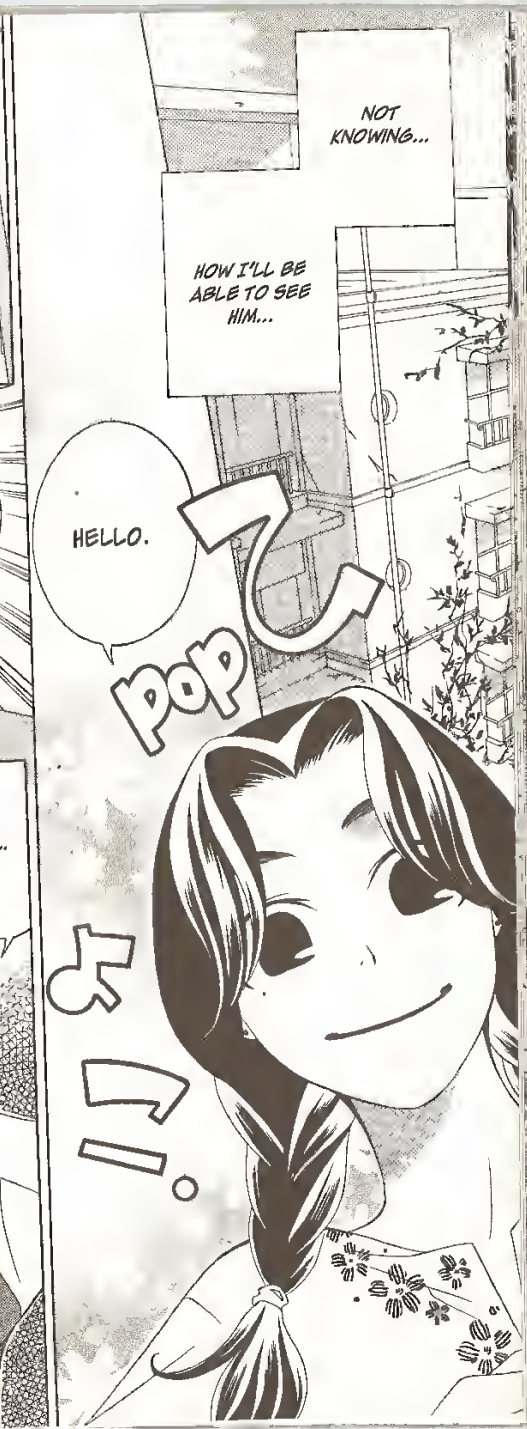

HEY, ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HUH?


GRIN
I'M STARVING.

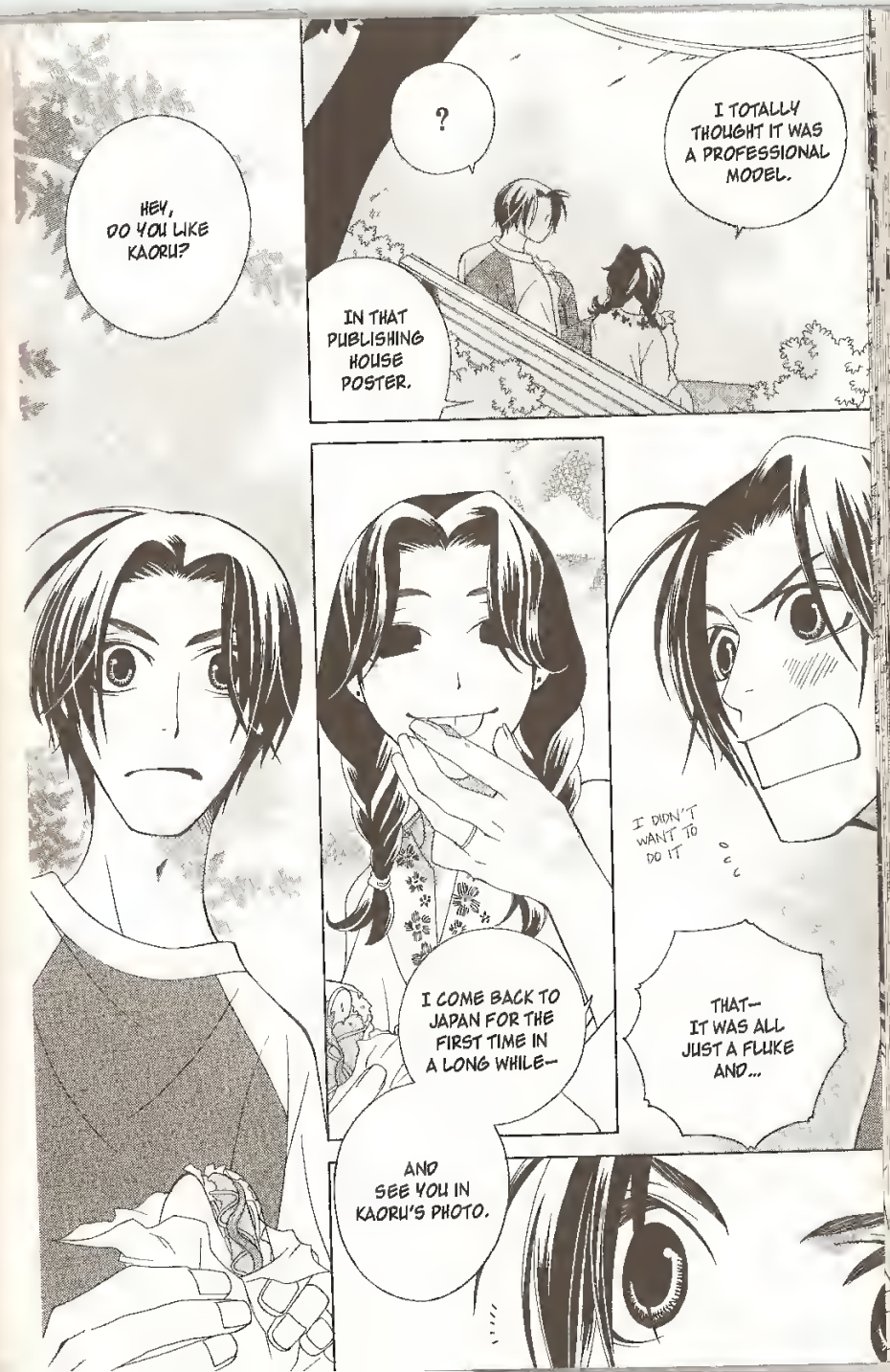
IT'S TOGAWA...
UMM...
PLEASE DO
I'LL DIG IN, THEN
MUNCH
MUNCH
YEAH, YEAH— RIGHT.
TOGAWA-KUN.

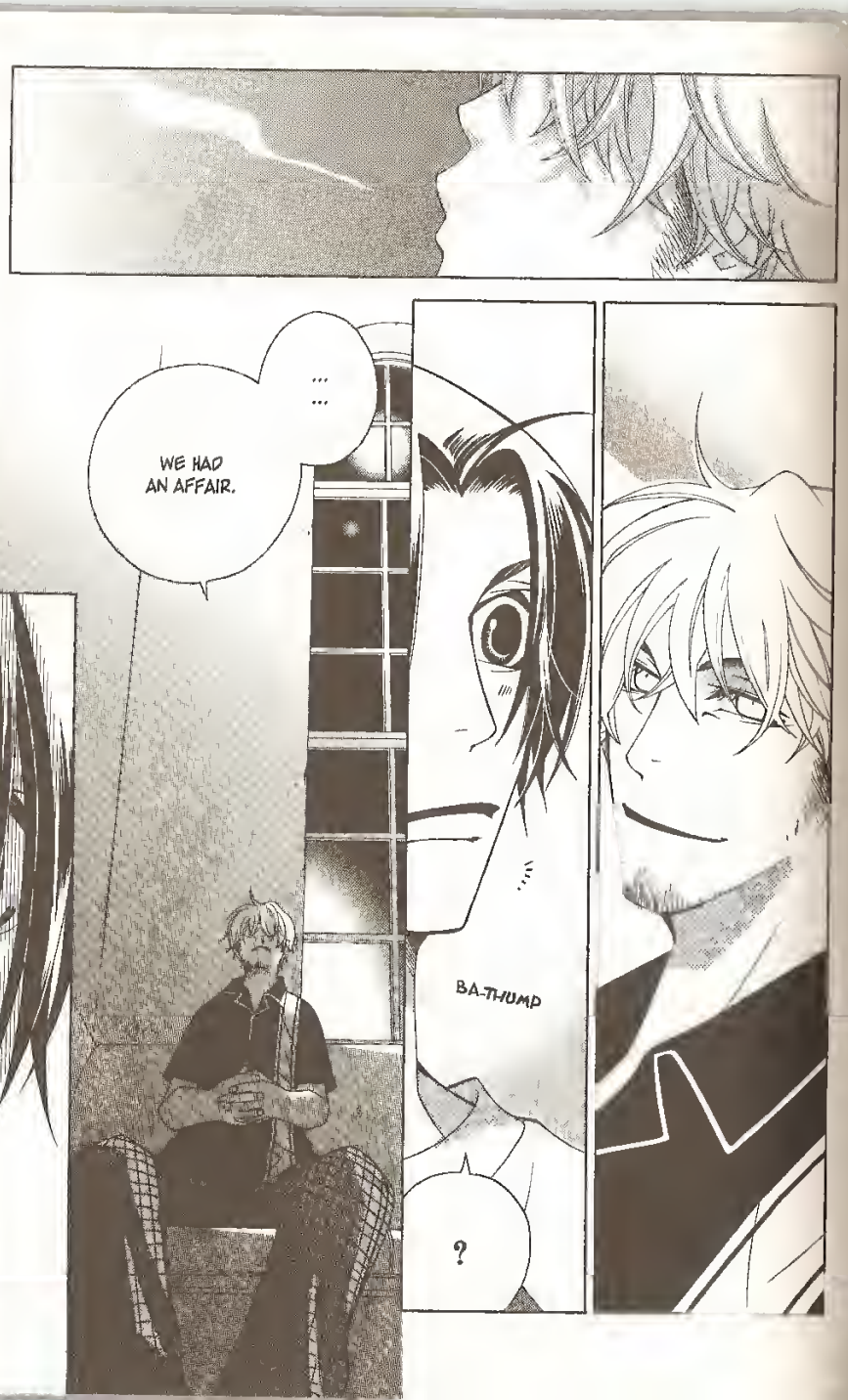

?!
JUMP!
KAORU DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN.

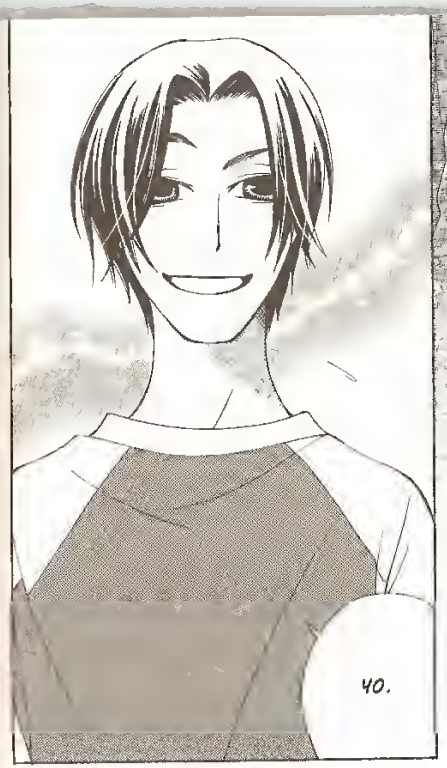

I DON'T KNOW...
...
...
...I SEE...
I WONDER IF HE'S AT WORK...?


NOT KNOWING...
HOW I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM...
HELLO.
POP
ピコ

YOU SEE, I CAME BACK HERE TO OPEN A PHOTO EXHIBIT.
TOGAWA-KUN...
IF YOU LIKE KAORU—
THIS LADY AND NAKAHARA-SAN...
WERE THEY REALLY...?
BUT IF YOU'RE IN PAIN...
...I FORGIVE YOU.
PLEASE BE SURE TO COME AND SEE.


HEY, DO YOU LIKE KAORU?
?
I TOTALLY THOUGHT IT WAS A PROFESSIONAL MODEL.
IN THAT PUBLISHING HOUSE POSTER.
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT
I COME BACK TO JAPAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE—
THAT— IT WAS ALL JUST A FLUKE AND...
AND SEE YOU IN KAORU'S PHOTO.

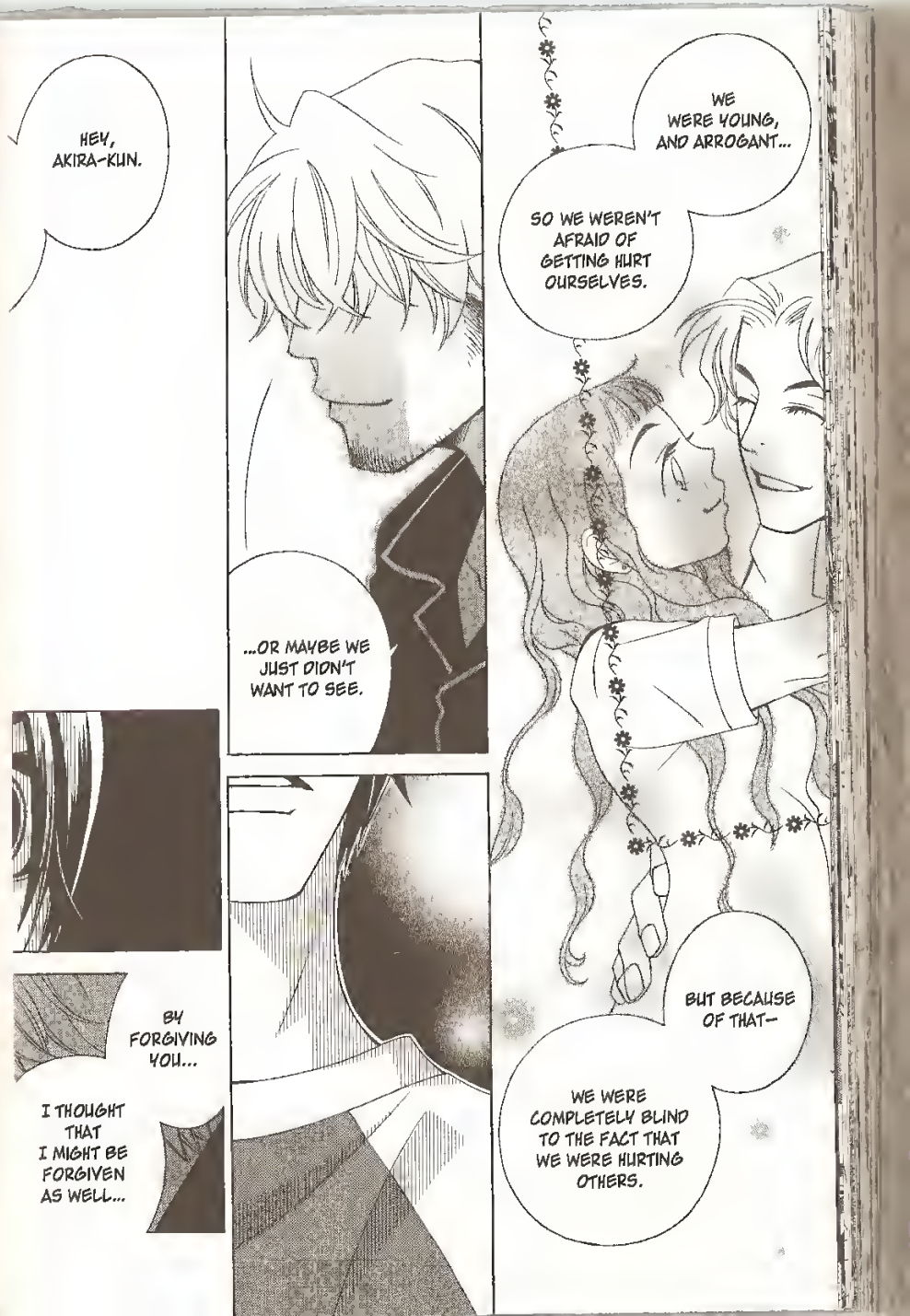

...
...
WE HAD AN AFFAIR.
BA-THUMP
?

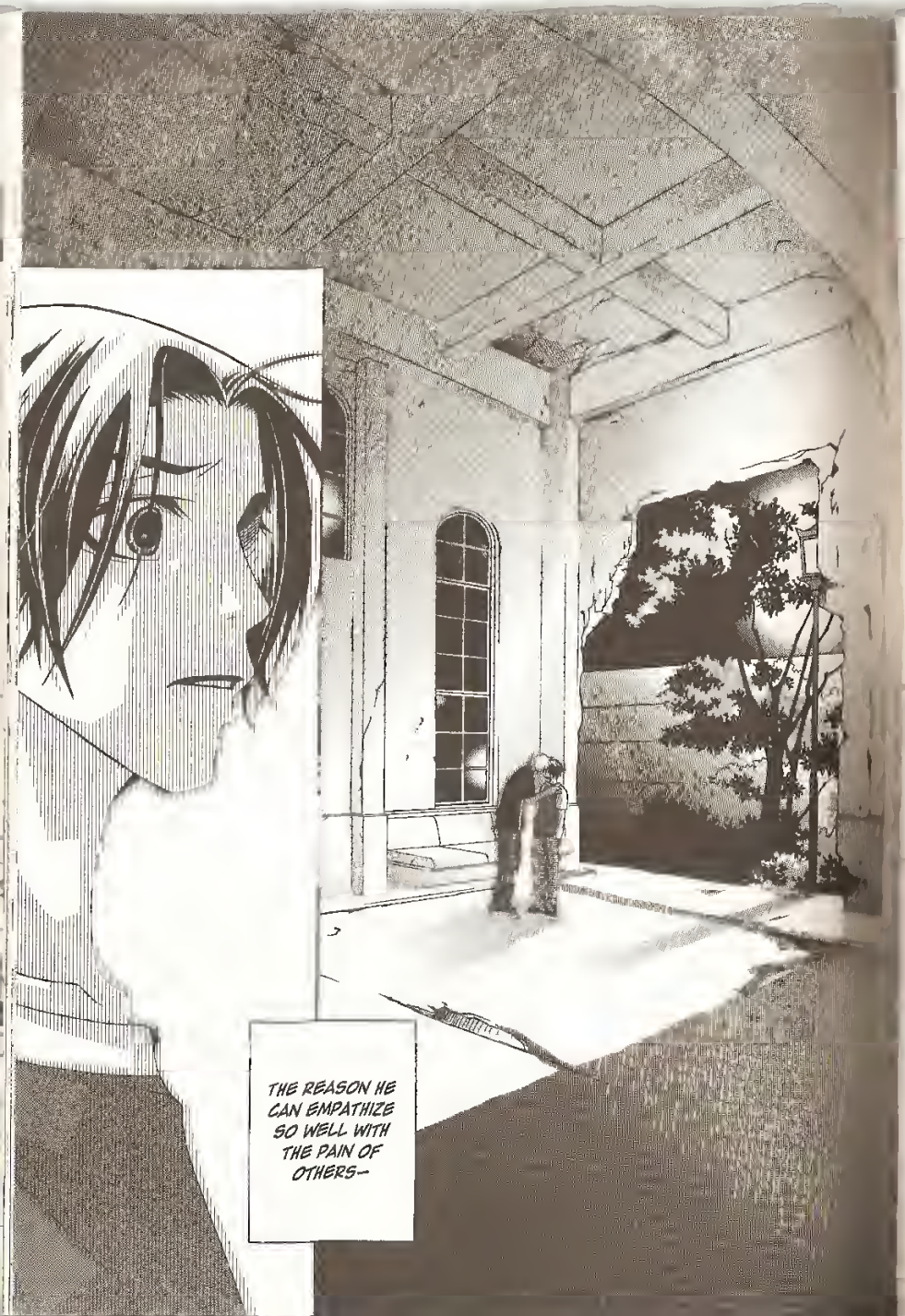

YO.

AH...
...I ASKED NATSUME-SAN TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU WERE...
YOU BUSY?
I'LL HELP YOU OUT.

EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE WILL.
STEP

I THINK I'VE BEEN FOOLING MYSELF.
HOW DO YOU WRITE "AKIRA" IN KANJI?
BUT... I THINK MAYBE I WAS BEING ARROGANT AGAIN.
...AND THAT I MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO LOVE SOMEONE AGAIN.


HEY, AKIRA-KUN.
...OR MAYBE WE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO SEE.
BY FORGIVING YOU...
I THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT BE FORGIVEN AS WELL...
WE WERE YOUNG, AND ARROGANT...
SO WE WEREN'T AFRAID OF GETTING HURT OURSELVES.
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT—
WE WERE COMPLETELY BLIND TO THE FACT THAT WE WERE HURTING OTHERS.


THE REASON HE CAN EMPATHIZE SO WELL WITH THE PAIN OF OTHERS—

PLINK
CLANK
NAKAHARA-SAN'S FUNEREAL PHOTOS...
DO THEY COME FROM A SENSE OF GUILT?
NATSUME-SAN, NAKAHARA-SAN, AND...
...ONE OTHER...
I'M SORRY.

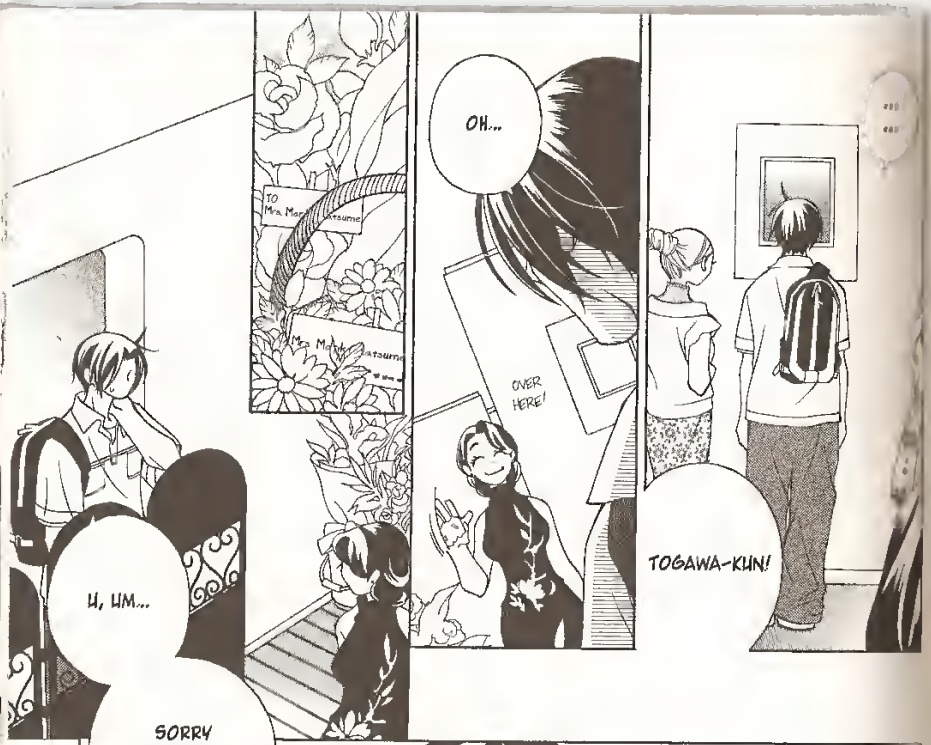
Camera Camera Camera

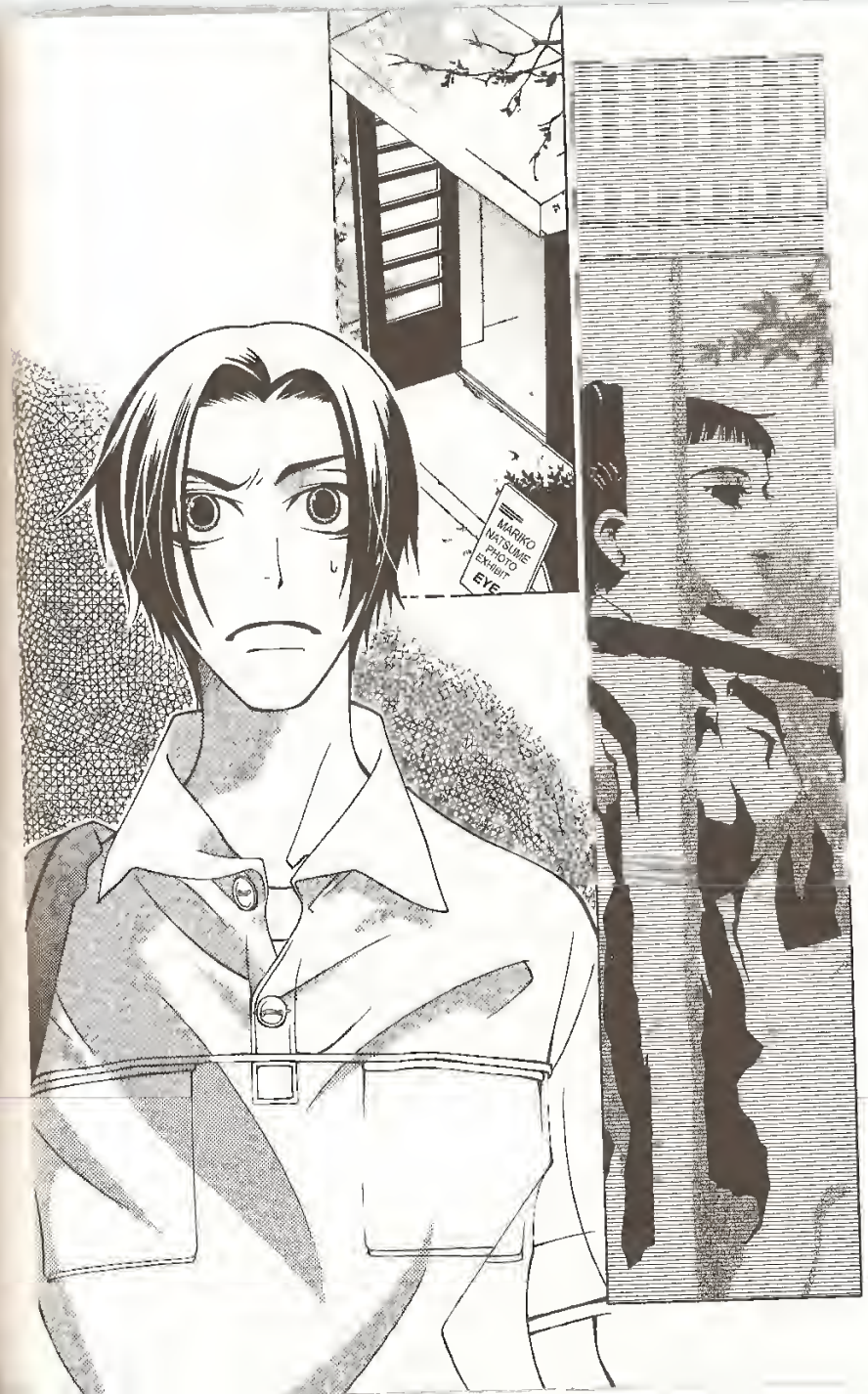
カメラ・カメラ・カメラ

shot.11

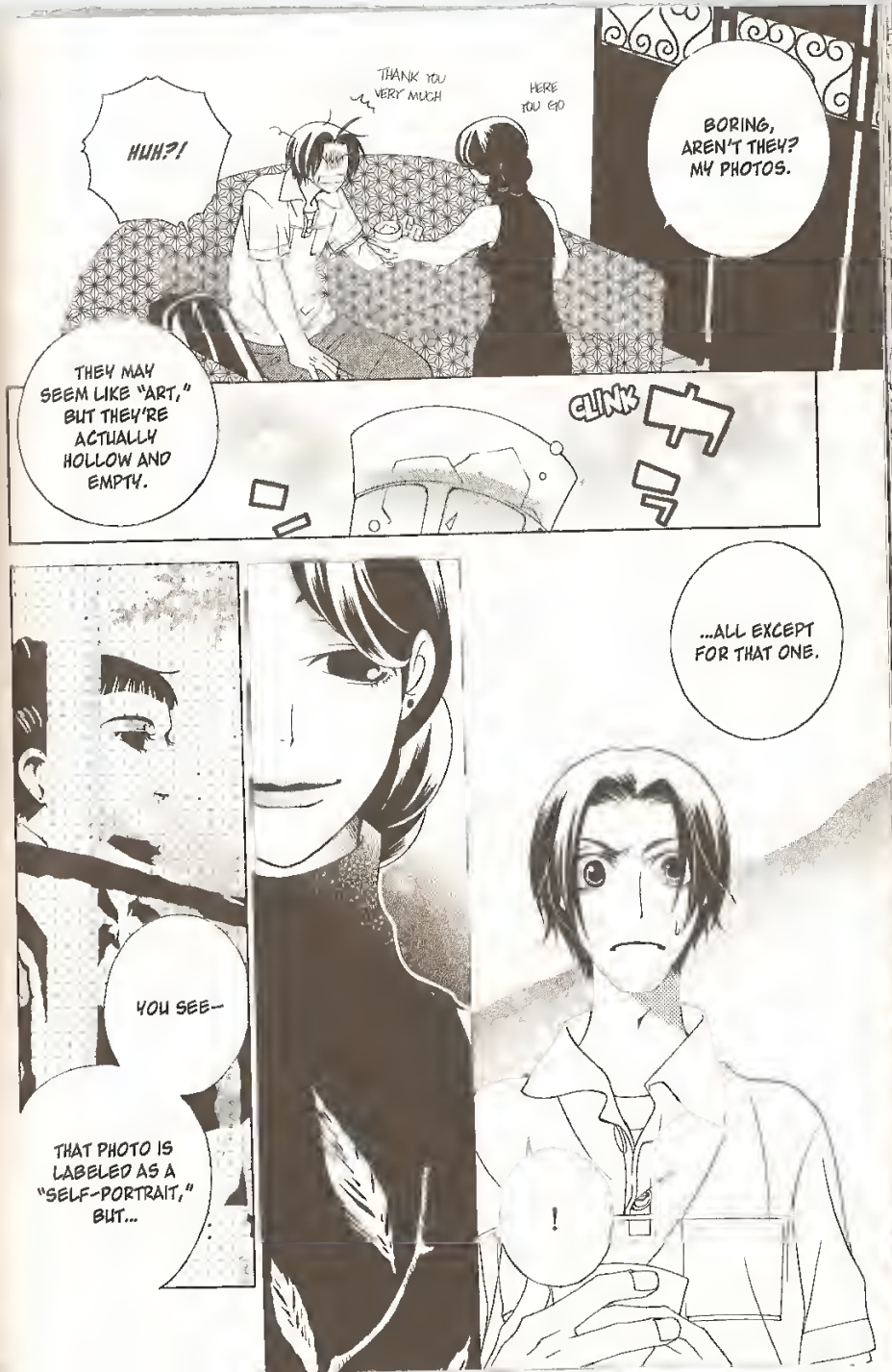
GOOD-BYE, AKIRA-KUN.

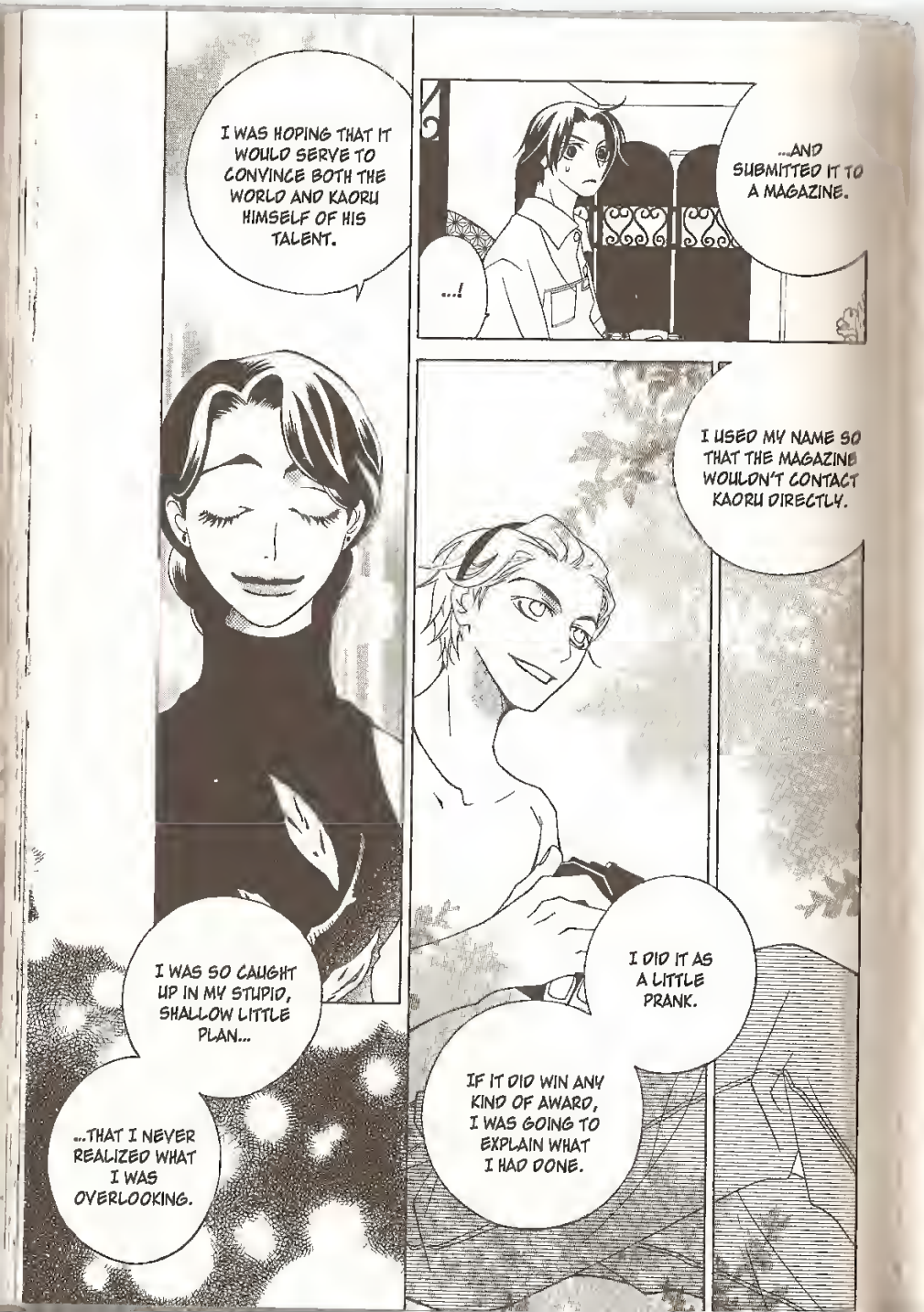
...IS BECAUSE HE HIMSELF IS STILL SUFFERING...

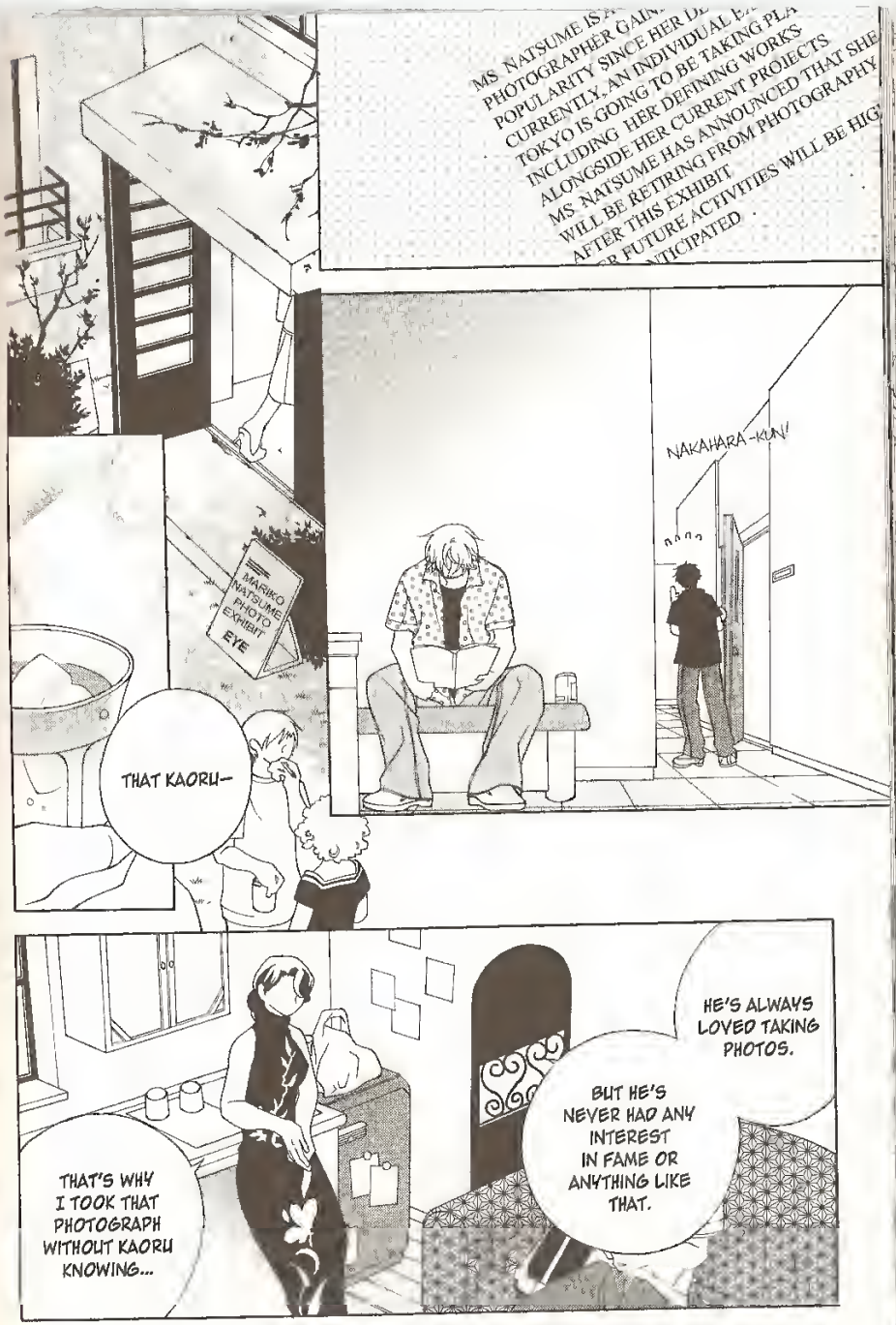

TO
Ms. Mariko Natsume
Ms. Mariko Natsume
OH...
OVER HERE!
TOGAWA-KUN!
U, UM...
SORRY I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
PLEASE, SIT DOWN.
...OKAY...


MARIKO NATSUME PHOTO EXHIBIT
EYE

PLANNING ROO
WE'RE GOING TO PICK THE PHOTOS. HURRY UP!
HEY, NAKAHARA!
KAORU ACTUALLY TOOK IT.
WHERE DID HE GO OFF TO...?
...
...
NAKAHARA—
ART
EYE
MARIKO NATSUME EXHIBIT


HUH?!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
HERE YOU GO
BORING, AREN'T THEY? MY PHOTOS.
THEY MAY SEEM LIKE "ART," BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY HOLLOW AND EMPTY.
CLINK
...ALL EXCEPT FOR THAT ONE.
YOU SEE—
THAT PHOTO IS LABELED AS A "SELF-PORTRAIT," BUT...
!

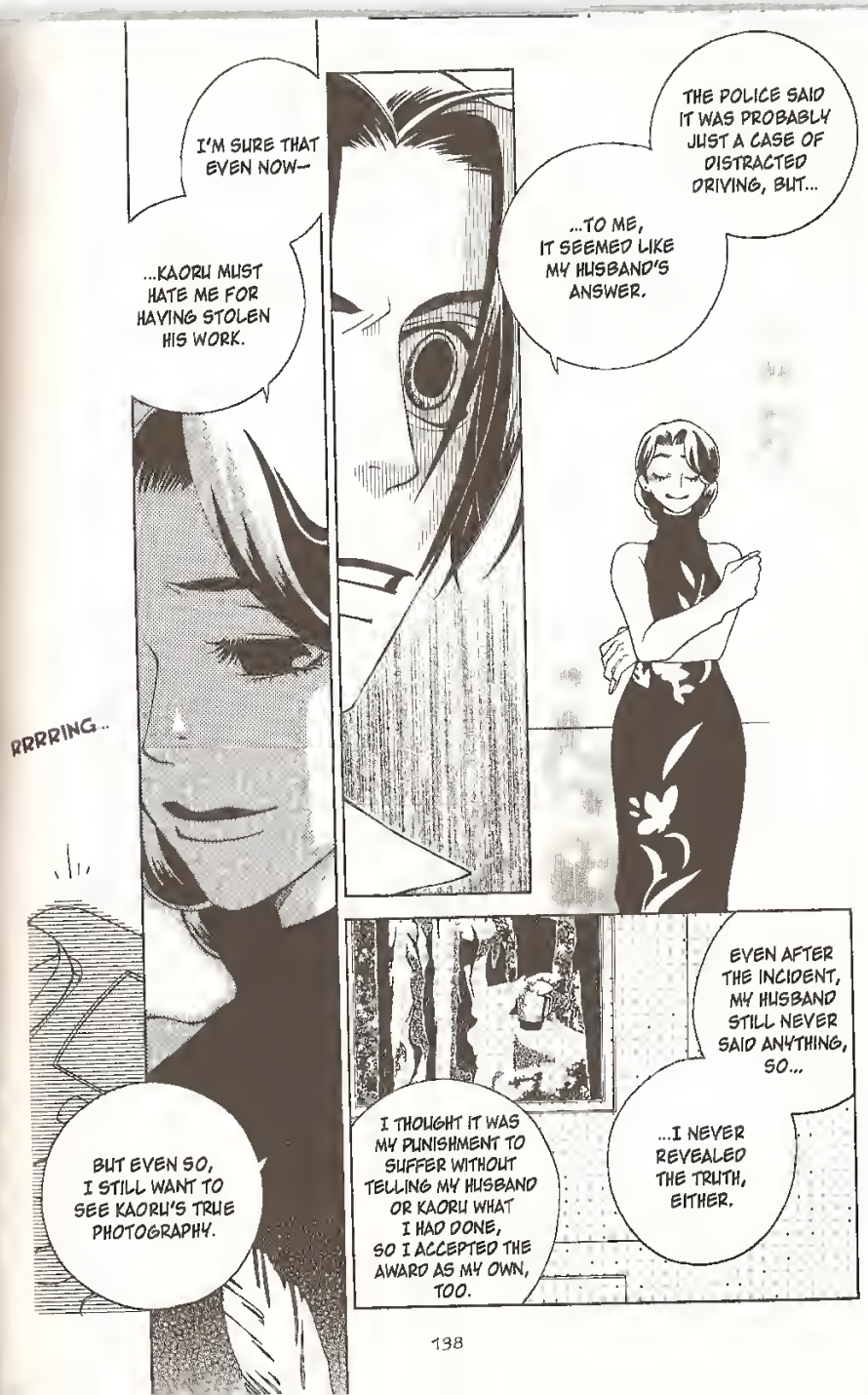

I WAS HOPING THAT IT WOULD SERVE TO CONVINCE BOTH THE WORLD AND KAORU HIMSELF OF HIS TALENT.
...AND SUBMITTED IT TO A MAGAZINE.
...!
I USED MY NAME SO THAT THE MAGAZINE WOULDN'T CONTACT KAORU DIRECTLY.
I DID IT AS A LITTLE PRANK.
IF IT DID WIN ANY KIND OF AWARD, I WAS GOING TO EXPLAIN WHAT I HAD DONE.
I WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN MY STUPID, SHALLOW LITTLE PLAN...
...THAT I NEVER REALIZED WHAT I WAS OVERLOOKING.


MS. NATSUME IS A PHOTOGRAPHER GAIN
POPULARITY SINCE HER DE
CURRENTLY, AN INDIVIDUAL E
TOKYO IS GOING TO BE TAKING PLA
INCLUDING HER DEFINING WORKS
ALONGSIDE HER CURRENT PROJECTS
MS. NATSUME HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SHE
WILL BE RETIRING FROM PHOTOGRAPHY
AFTER THIS EXHIBIT
R FUTURE ACTIVITIES WILL BE HIG
NTICIPATED
MARIKO NATSUME PHOTO EXHIBIT EYE
THAT KAORU—
NAKAHARA-KUN!
THAT'S WHY I TOOK THAT PHOTOGRAPH WITHOUT KAORU KNOWING...
BUT HE'S NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN FAME OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
HE'S ALWAYS LOVED TAKING PHOTOS.

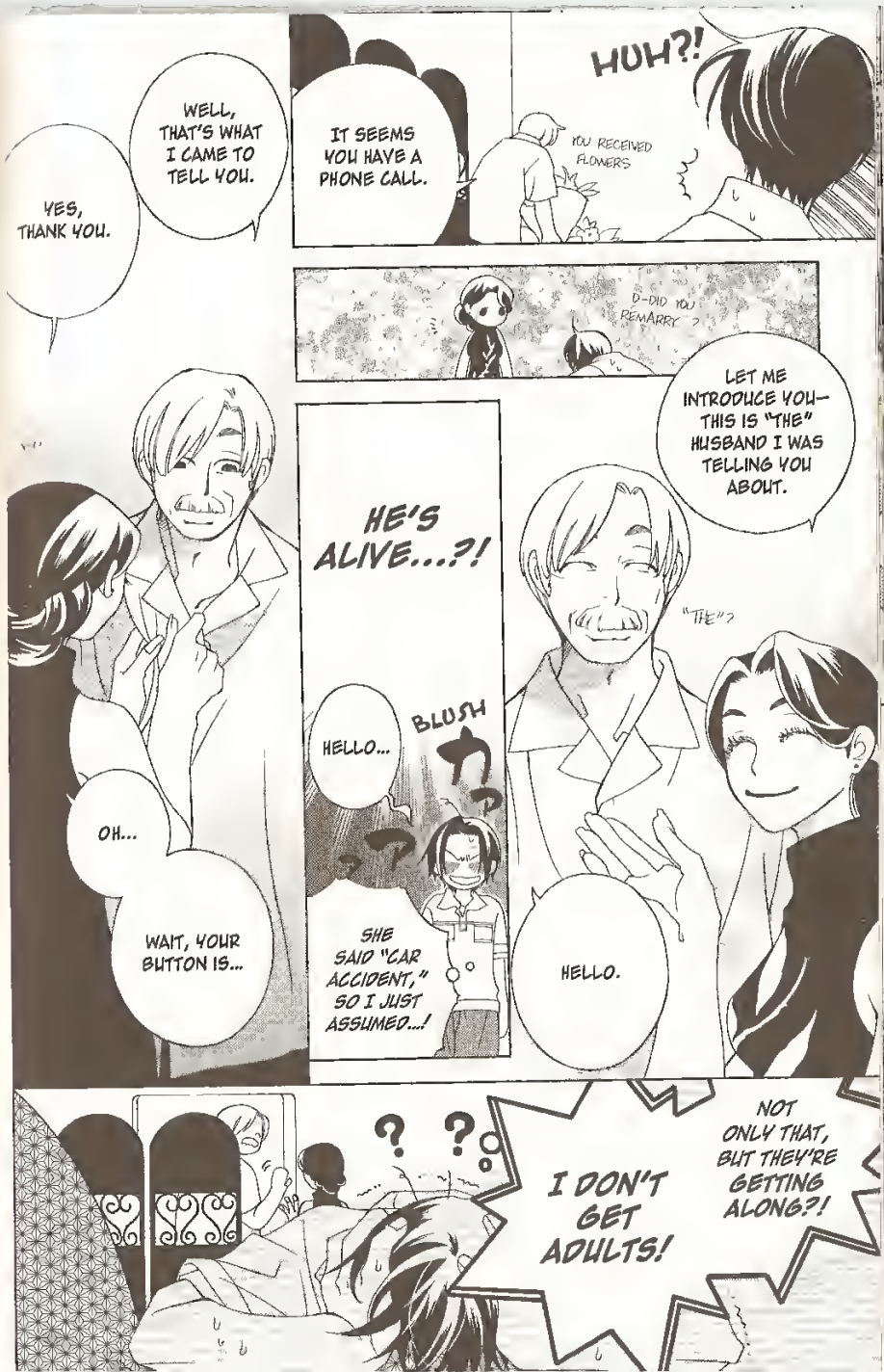
...I DON'T KNOW...
MY HUSBAND MAY HAVE THOUGHT I WAS JUST COPYING HIM BY STARTING UP PHOTOGRAPHY...
OR HE MAY HAVE BECOME AWARE OF KAORU'S EXISTENCE AFTER SEEING THAT PHOTOGRAPH.
PERHAPS HE ALREADY KNEW BEFORE THAT...
AFTER THE JUDGING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AWARD, MY HUSBAND...
ON THE WAY HOME...
...BUT...
EVEN I DON'T REALLY KNOW FOR SURE.
...CRASHED HIS CAR, ON A STRAIGHT, WELL-LIT ROAD.

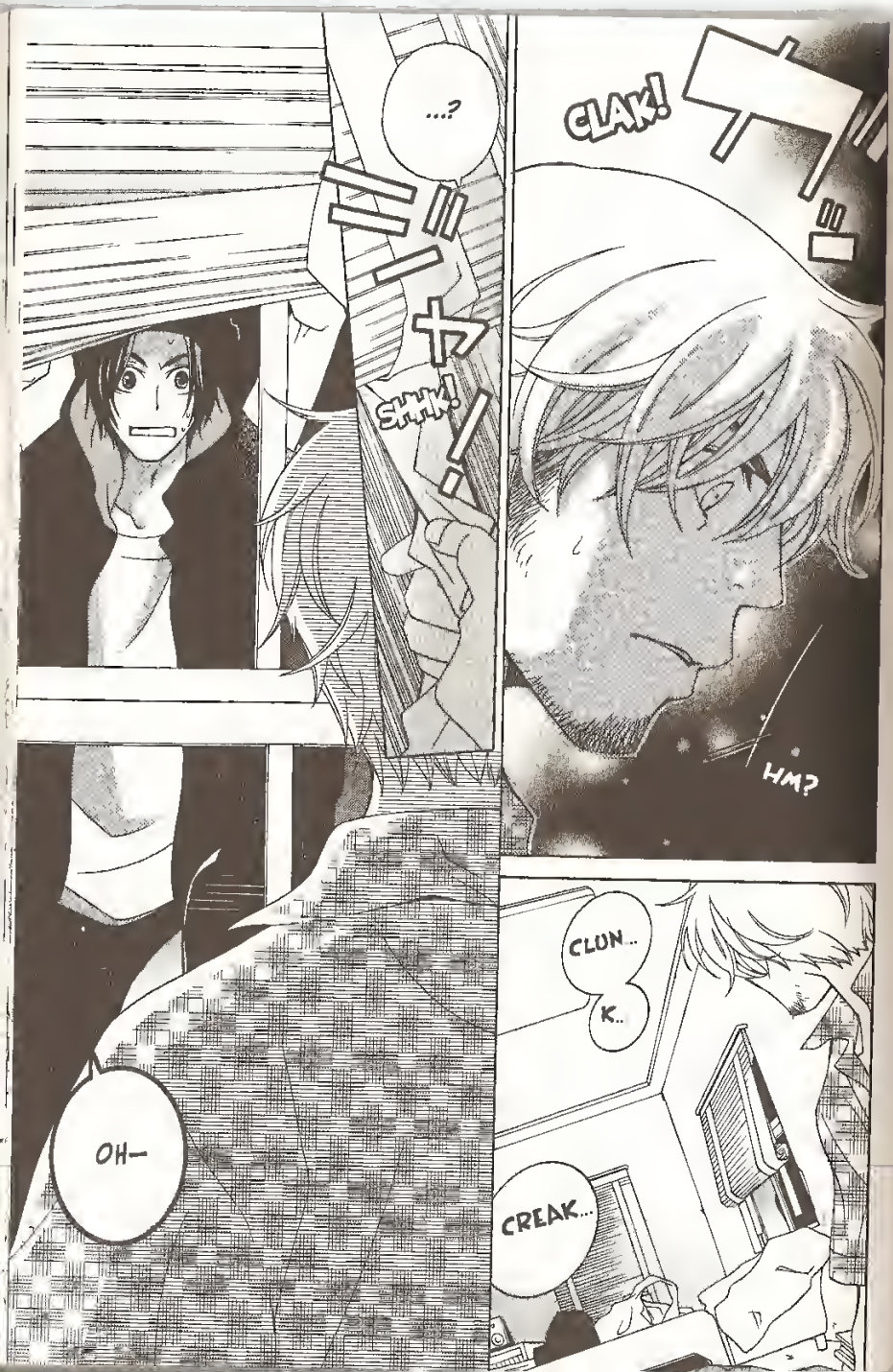
THE FACT THAT MY HUSBAND WAS ALSO A PHOTOGRAPHER...
"WE HAD AN AFFAIR."
AND—
THE FACT THAT I HAD A HUSBAND...
...
...
THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE SPECIAL GUEST JUDGES FOR THE MAGAZINE I HAD SUBMITTED THE PHOTO TO...
...WAS MY HUSBAND.
...!
THEN...

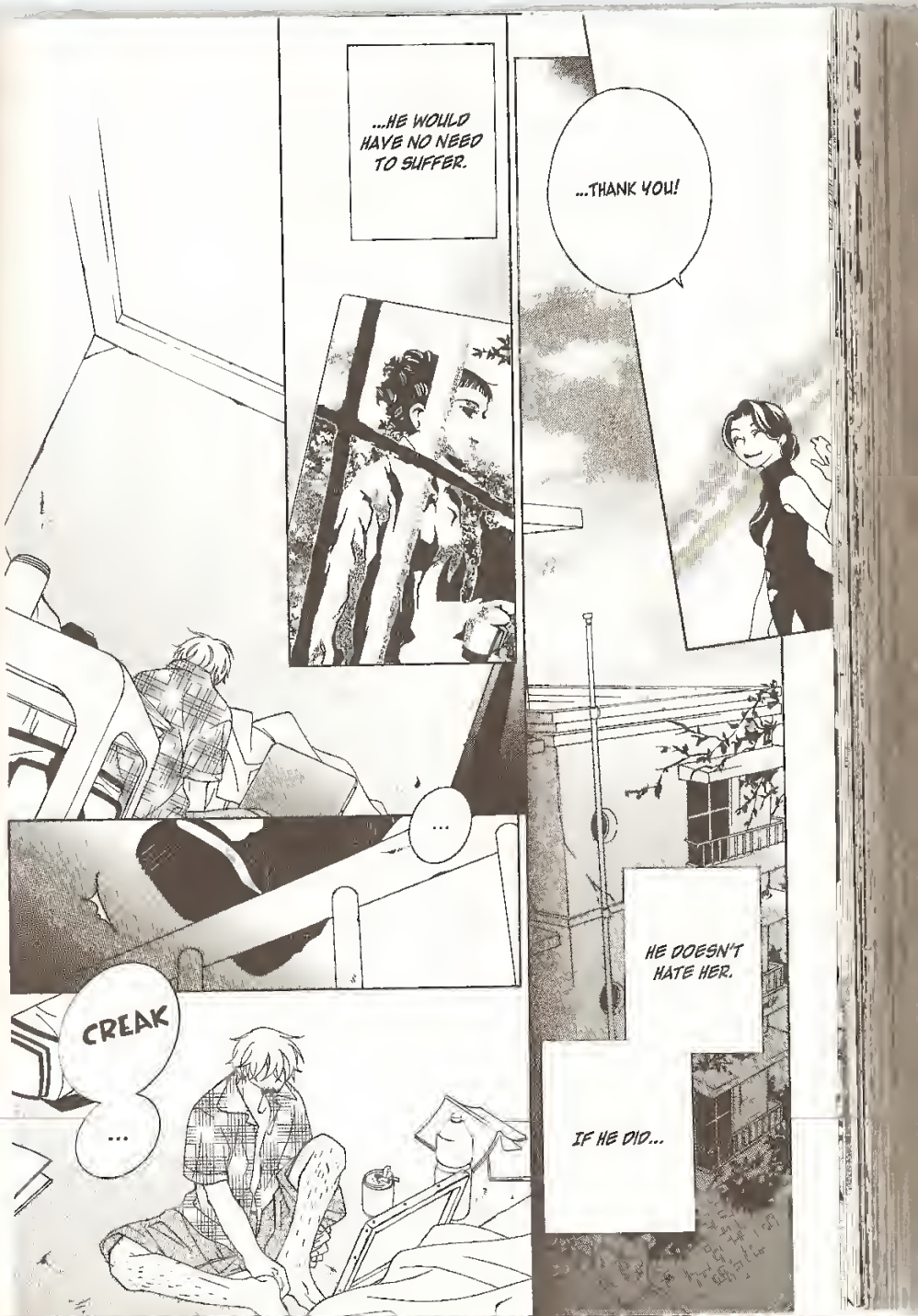
EVEN IF HE DESPISES ME...
EVEN IF...
...YOU ARE THE ONE IN HIS PHOTOS NOW...
B...
BUT NAKAHARA-SAN IS...
MARIKO?
OH
AH, SORRY TO HAVE INTERRUPTED YOU.
OH... HELLO, DEAR.


I'M SURE THAT EVEN NOW--
...KAORU MUST HATE ME FOR HAVING STOLEN HIS WORK.
RRRRING..
BUT EVEN SO, I STILL WANT TO SEE KAORU'S TRUE PHOTOGRAPHY.
THE POLICE SAID IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A CASE OF DISTRACTED DRIVING, BUT...
...TO ME, IT SEEMED LIKE MY HUSBAND'S ANSWER.
I THOUGHT IT WAS MY PUNISHMENT TO SUFFER WITHOUT TELLING MY HUSBAND OR KAORU WHAT I HAD DONE, SO I ACCEPTED THE AWARD AS MY OWN, TOO.
EVEN AFTER THE INCIDENT, MY HUSBAND STILL NEVER SAID ANYTHING, SO...
...I NEVER REVEALED THE TRUTH, EITHER.

BECAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT...
...WELL, I'VE GOT TO TAKE THAT PHONE CALL...
W...
WAIT!
YOU SEE...
HE CAN'T USE HIS DOMINANT HAND ANYMORE.
NAKAHARA-SAN DOESN'T HATE YOU.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT'S SUFFERING.


HUH?!
YOU RECEIVED FLOWERS
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU.
YES, THANK YOU.
D-DID YOU REMARRY?
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU— THIS IS "THE" HUSBAND I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.
"THE"?
HE'S ALIVE...?!
BLUSH
HELLO...
OH...
WAIT, YOUR BUTTON IS...
SHE SAID "CAR ACCIDENT," SO I JUST ASSUMED...!
HELLO.
I DON'T GET ADULTS!
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THEY'RE GETTING ALONG?!

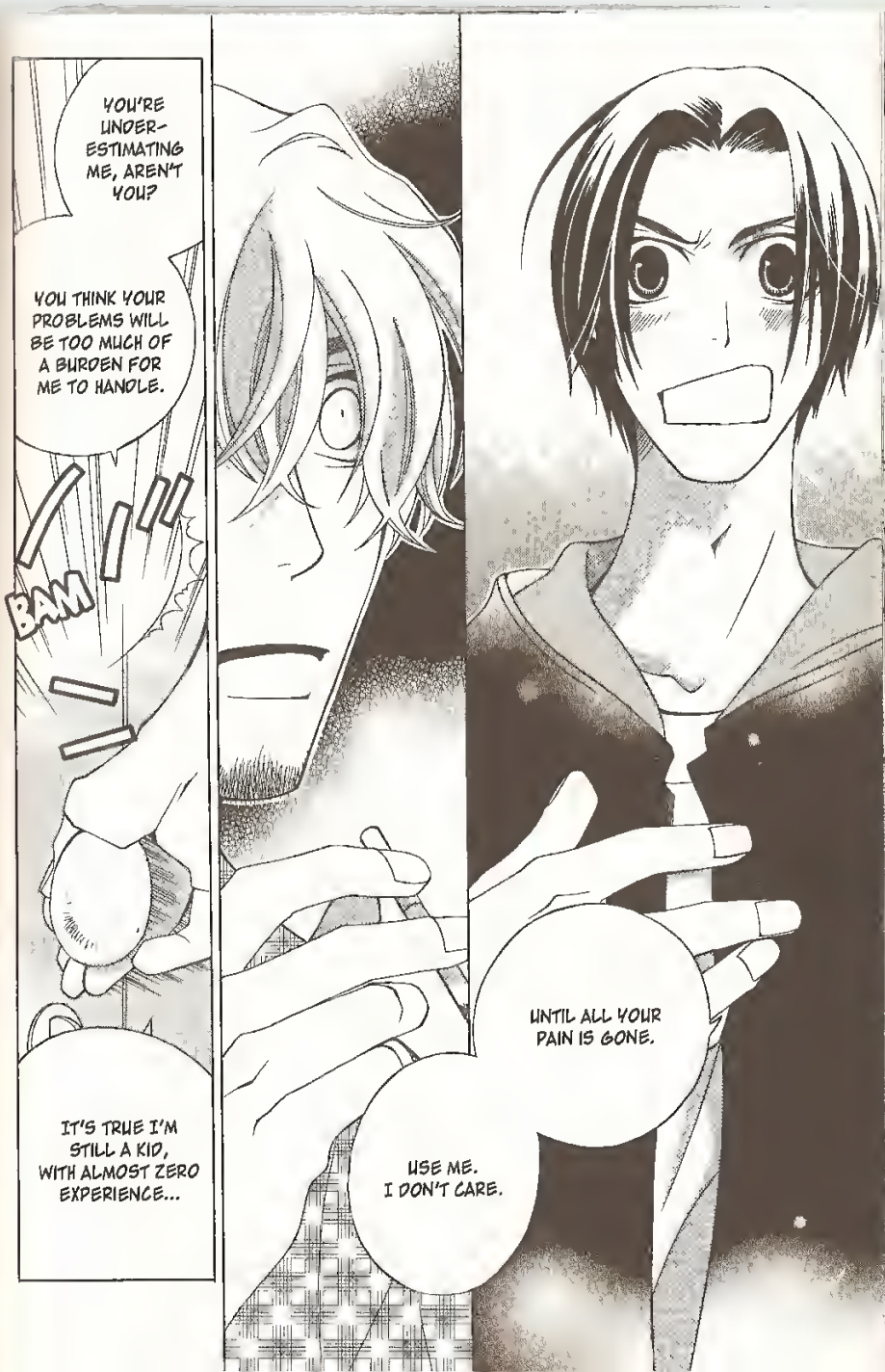

...?
SHHH!
CLAK!
HM?
OH—
CLUN...
K..
CREAK...


...HE WOULD HAVE NO NEED TO SUFFER.
...THANK YOU!
...
CREAK
...
HE DOESN'T HATE HER.
IF HE DID...

...YOU TELLING ME TO LEAVE?
I USED YOU...
...TO MAKE MYSELF FEEL BETTER.
NOPE.
HEY, AKIRA-KUN, HEY-
DIDN'T I SAY?
I WAS JUST USING YOU.
THEN USE ME UP.

Y...
YO...
MY PLAN WAS...
...TO ENTER DRAMATICALLY, WITH A BANG...
I'M COMING IN
LIKE, "TA-DAH!" YOU KNOW...?
CHAK!

BUT...
YOU SAID, DION'T YOU-
THAT YOU'D FORGIVE ME.
WELL, THEN I...


YOU'RE UNDER-ESTIMATING ME, AREN'T YOU?
YOU THINK YOUR PROBLEMS WILL BE TOO MUCH OF A BURDEN FOR ME TO HANDLE.
BAM
IT'S TRUE I'M STILL A KID, WITH ALMOST ZERO EXPERIENCE...
USE ME. I DON'T CARE.
UNTIL ALL YOUR PAIN IS GONE.

HOW STRONG YOU'VE BECOME...
IS IT BECAUSE OF ME?
WHAT?!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LAUGH!
HAHAHA...
HEY!
HE LAUGHED AT ME?!
BLUSH
HEE
HEE
HEE
...BUT...
...
...
DON'T BE SO CONCEITED.

...FORGIVE YOU.
...PAFF!

WHA...!
YOU WON'T GET MAD, EVEN IF I DON'T STOP?
KISS...

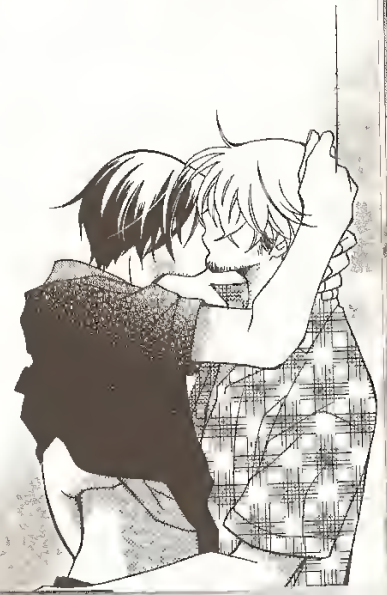
CAN I KISS YOU?
HUH?!
YOU COULD SAY THAT
WHOA!
FLINCH
CAN I KISS YOU A LOT?
MAYBE... A LITTLE...
I GUESS
HUG

WAI
LET ME THINK IT OVER
AAAGH!
OH, BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME WITH A MAN, SO SORRY IF IT HURTS ♥
TEE HEE
HUH?!
WE THINK ALIKE.

IT'S NOT MY THING, EITHER.

CLAMP
OUCH...!

'CUZ RAPE JUST ISN'T MY THING.
!!

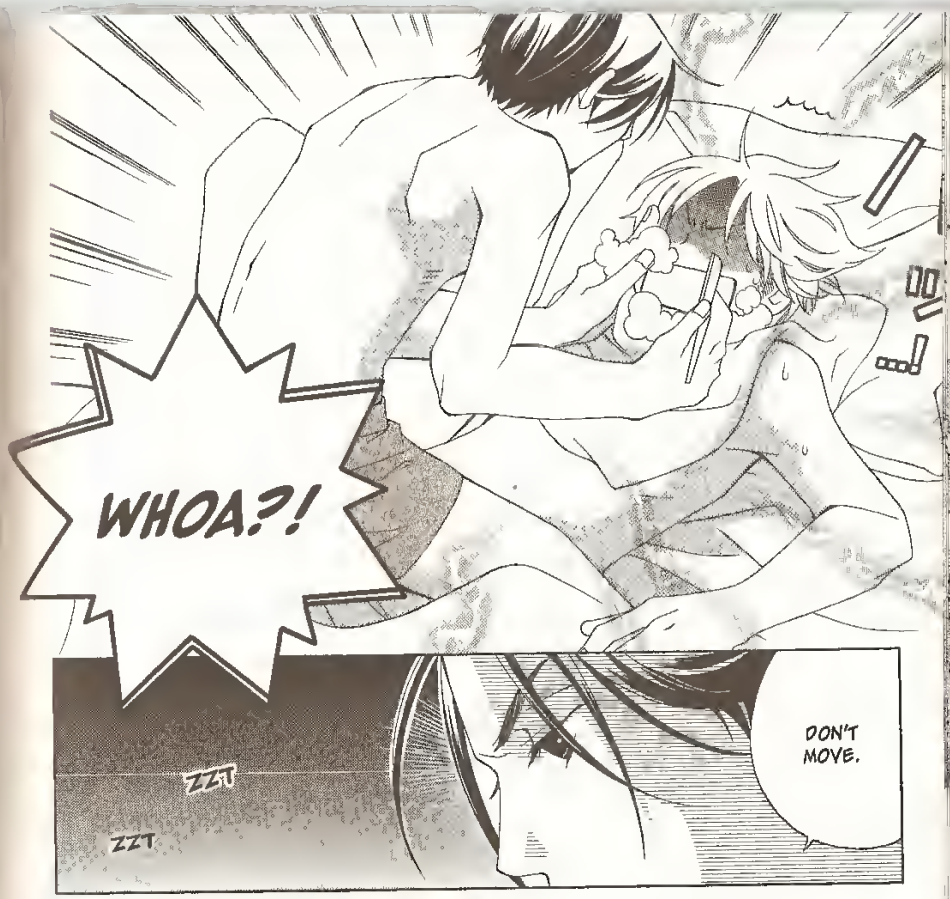


BONK
DAMN! STUPID SCRUFFY!
MY SHOULDER STINGS!
ZZZ
ZZZ
7 A.M.
ZT
ZZZT...
MMMH...?
MM...?
ROLL..

TIC
TOCK
U...
URRGH...
UNNH
ZZZ
IT'S HOT...
STING
...
...

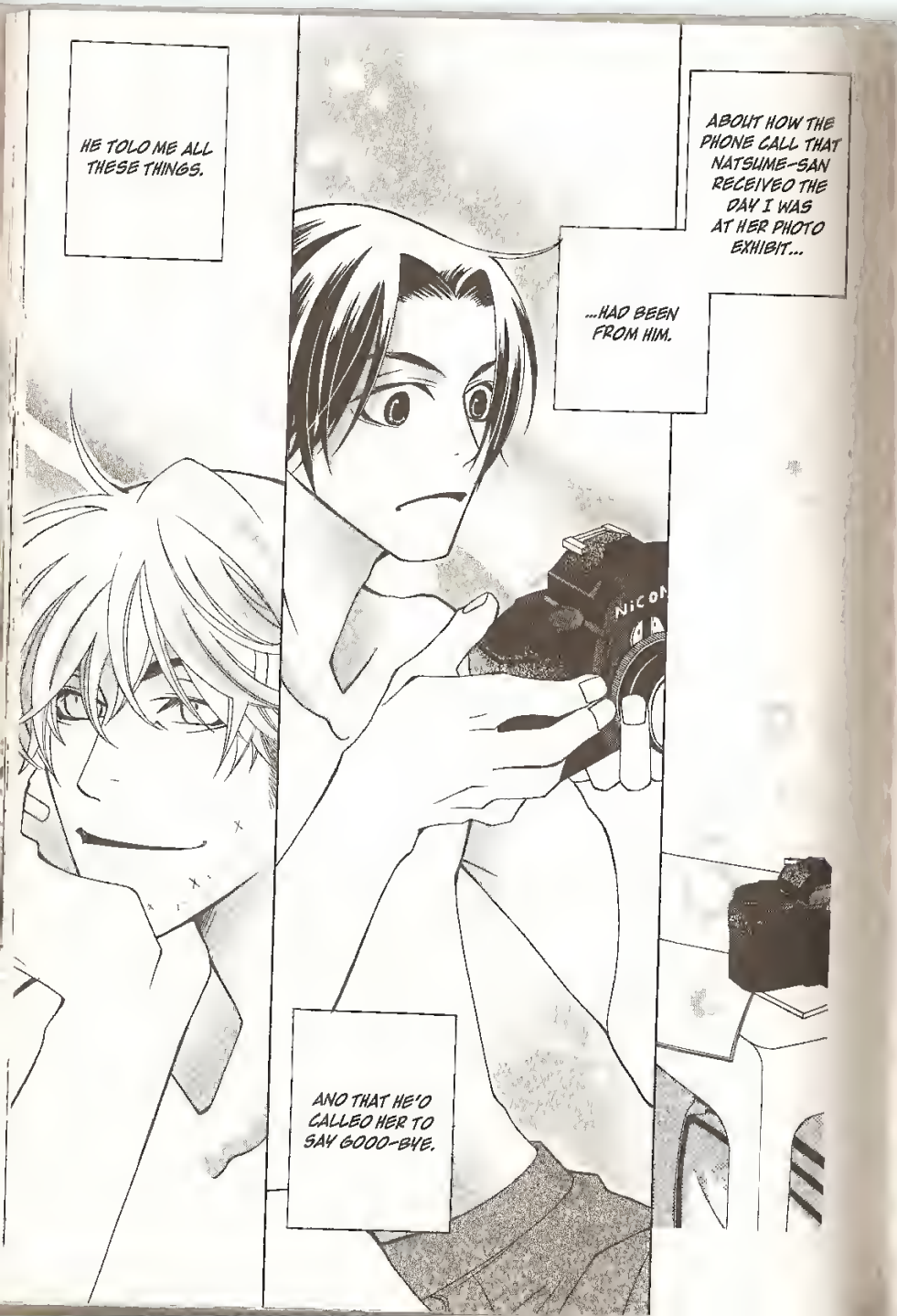
WHSH!
RIGHT HERE—
YOUR STUBBLE SCRAPES AGAINST MY SHOULDER AND IT HURTS...
WHOA!
...WHEN WE'RE HAVING SEX.

N...!
SMOOOOCH
SO IN OTHER WORDS...
IS THIS YOUR WAY OF BEGGING FOR MORE?


WHOA?!
ZZT
ZZT
DON'T MOVE.

WHAAAT?
GLOOM
TCH

SOB
NOOO... AND I WAS GROWING IT OUT, TOO...
MOVE YOUR HANDS
SHUT UP! IT'S TOO STIFLING-LOOKING!


HE TOLD ME ALL THESE THINGS.
ABOUT HOW THE PHONE CALL THAT NATSUME-SAN RECEIVED THE DAY I WAS AT HER PHOTO EXHIBIT...
...HAD BEEN FROM HIM.
AND THAT HE'D CALLED HER TO SAY GOOD-BYE.

AS I'D THOUGHT, NAKAHARA-SAN ALREADY PRETTY MUCH KNEW EVERYTHING, AND HE TOLD ME...
...ABOUT HOW NATSUME-SAN WAS GOING TO RETIRE FROM PHOTOGRAPHY...
NOOO OOO
YOU DIRTY OLD MAN!
O O!
AFTER WE'D FOOLED AROUND TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT...
I TOLD HIM ABOUT NATSUME-SAN AS WE READIED FOR SLEEP.

Camera Camera Camera
カメラカメラカメラ
last shot.

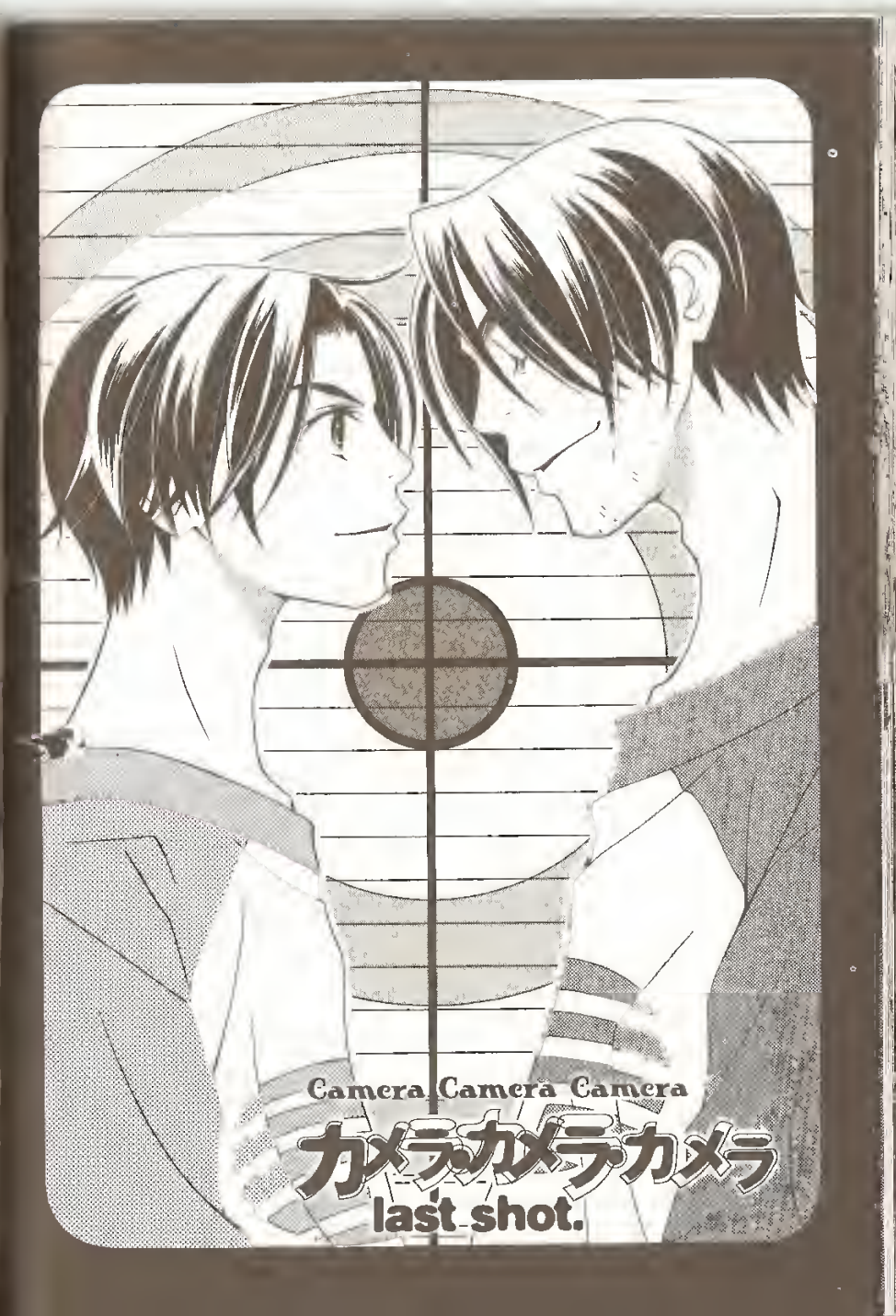
OH...

HOW HAPPY I AM...

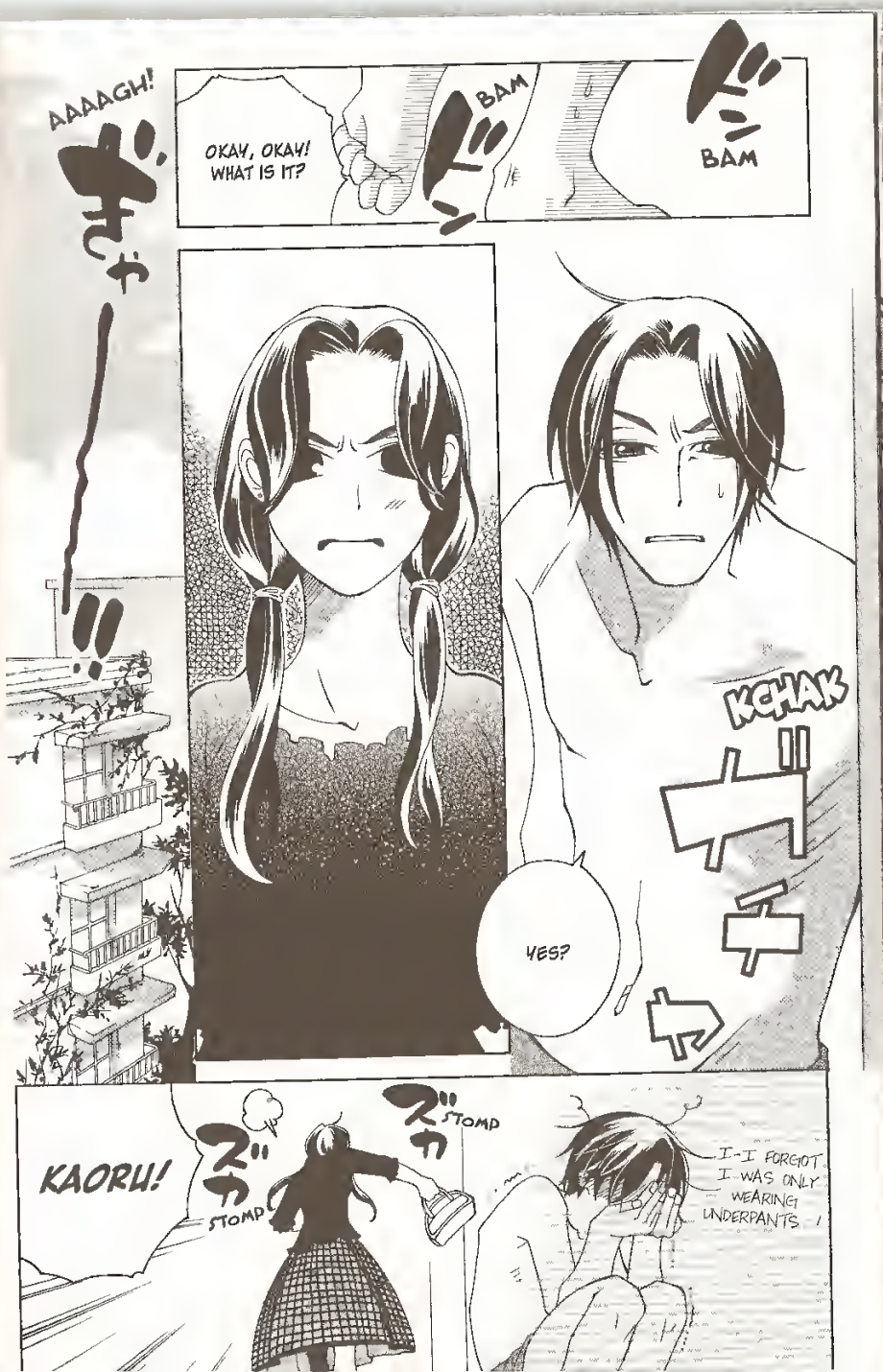
THAT'S WHY...

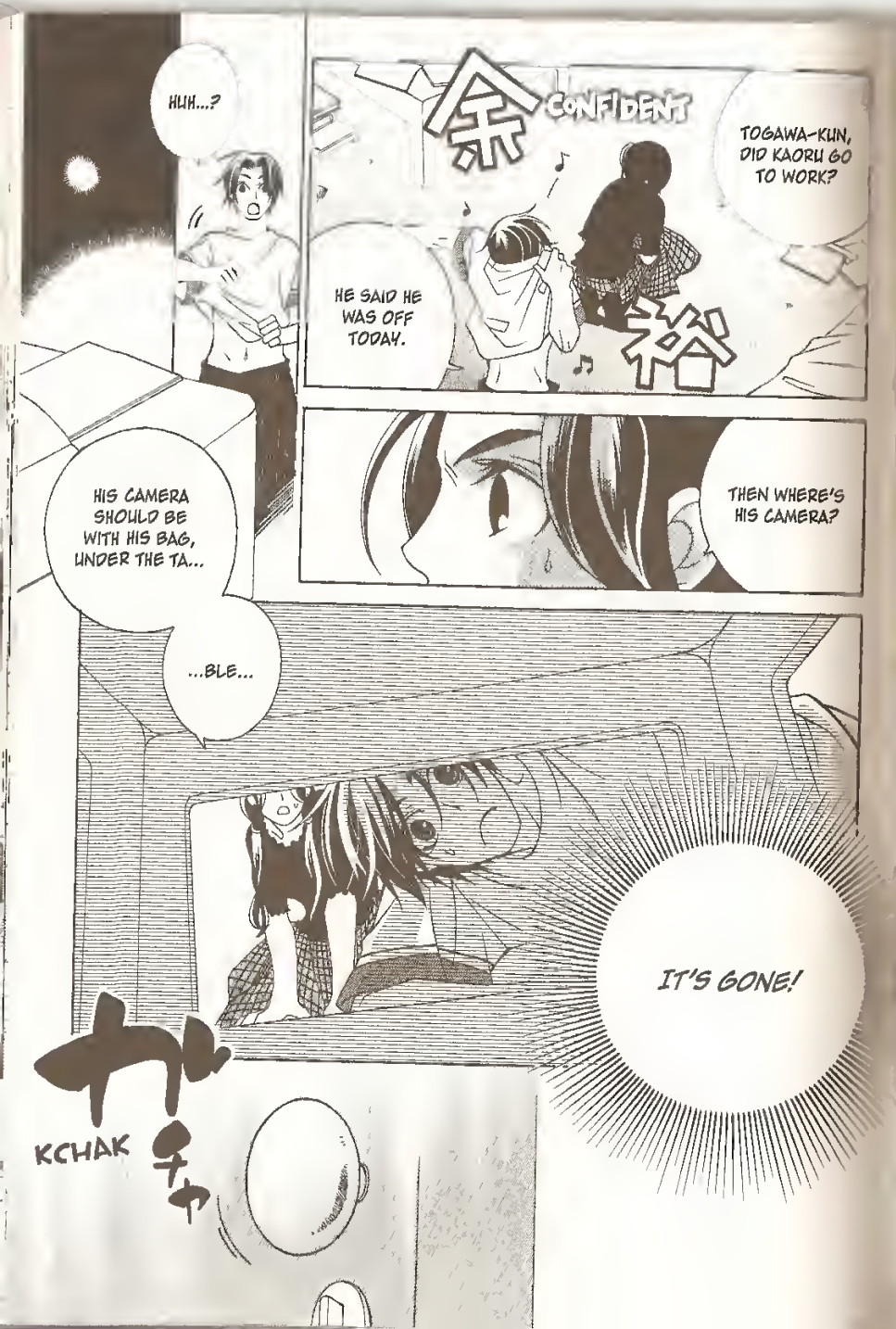
I NEVER DOUBTED THAT THIS WAS FINALLY GOING TO BE THE BEGINNING FOR US...

コロ-I-ROLL
...SOMEONE'S HERE...
HUH?
ドン!
BAM
ブー
BUZZZ
AND HOW LUCKY.
♥


Camera Camera Camera
カメラ・カメラ・カメラ
last shot.

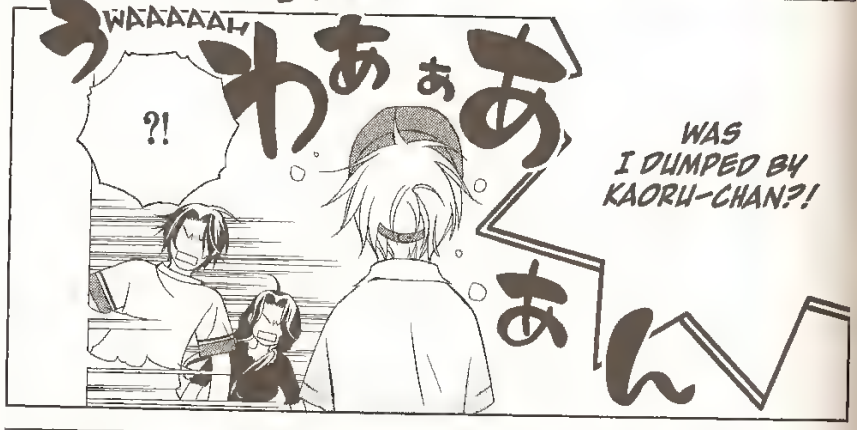
I...DON'T KNOW. MAYBE HE JUST POPPED OUT TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE?
TCH
SO YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT SEEING ME IN MY SKIVVIES AT ALL
WHERE'S KAORU?!
...
...
THAT FOOL...!
HUH...?

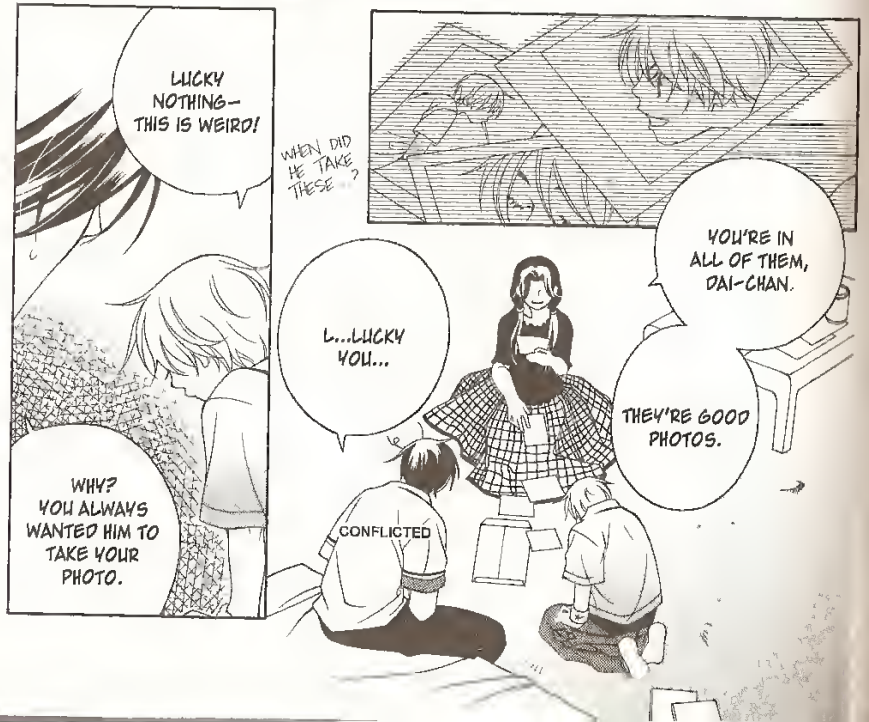

AAAAGH!
OKAY, OKAY! WHAT IS IT?
BAM
BAM
KCHAK
YES?
KAORU!
STOMP
STOMP
I-I FORGOT I WAS ONLY WEARING UNDERPANTS!

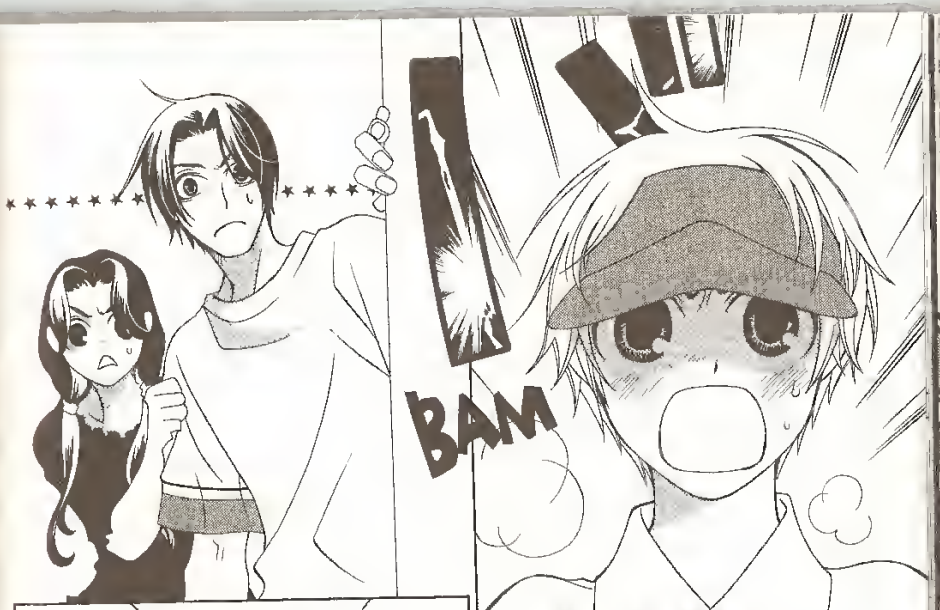

HUH...?
余 CONFIDENT
TOGAWA-KUN, DID KAORU GO TO WORK?
HE SAID HE WAS OFF TODAY.
THEN WHERE'S HIS CAMERA?
HIS CAMERA SHOULD BE WITH HIS BAG, UNDER THE TA...
...BLE...
IT'S GONE!
KCHAK

SCREEECH
OVERSEAS?!
JUMP
HE TURNED DOWN THAT PLUM OF A JOB!
IT WAS FINALLY A CHANCE FOR HIM TO BE RECOGNIZED OVERSEAS!
I FEEL BAD FOR NATSUME-SAN, BUT...
I'M A LITTLE BIT RELIEVED
HEH HEH...
!
SIGH...
I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD AN OFFER LIKE THAT...
BUT...
HE TURNED IT DOWN...

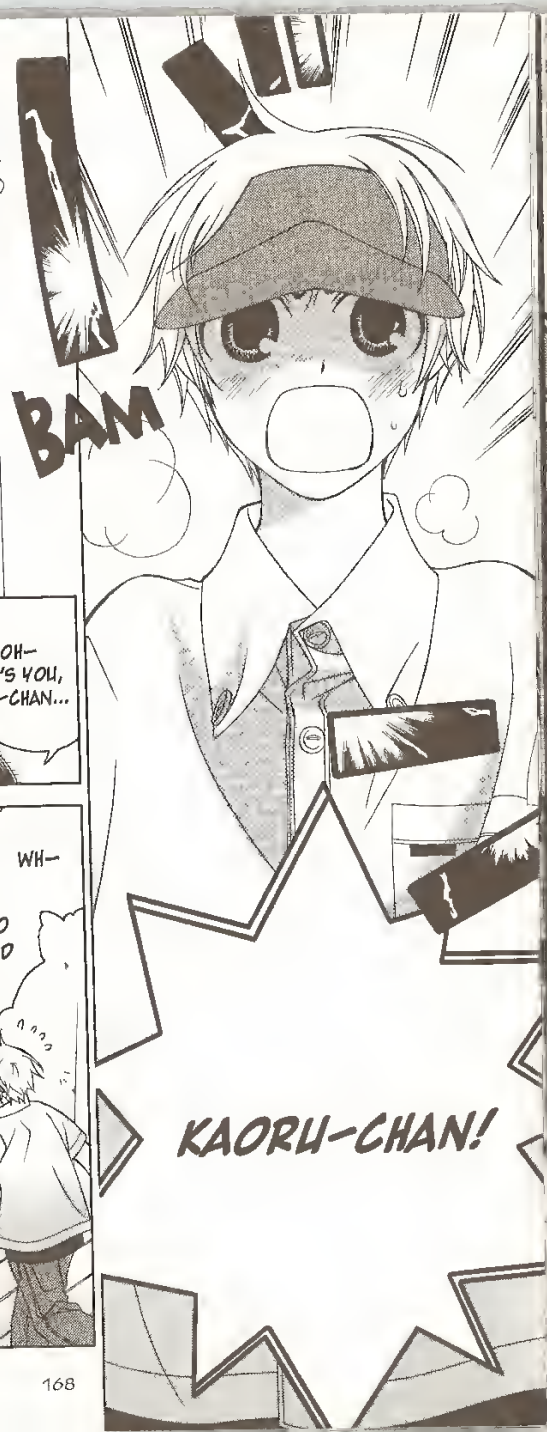
I'll sob
I...
I...!
わ

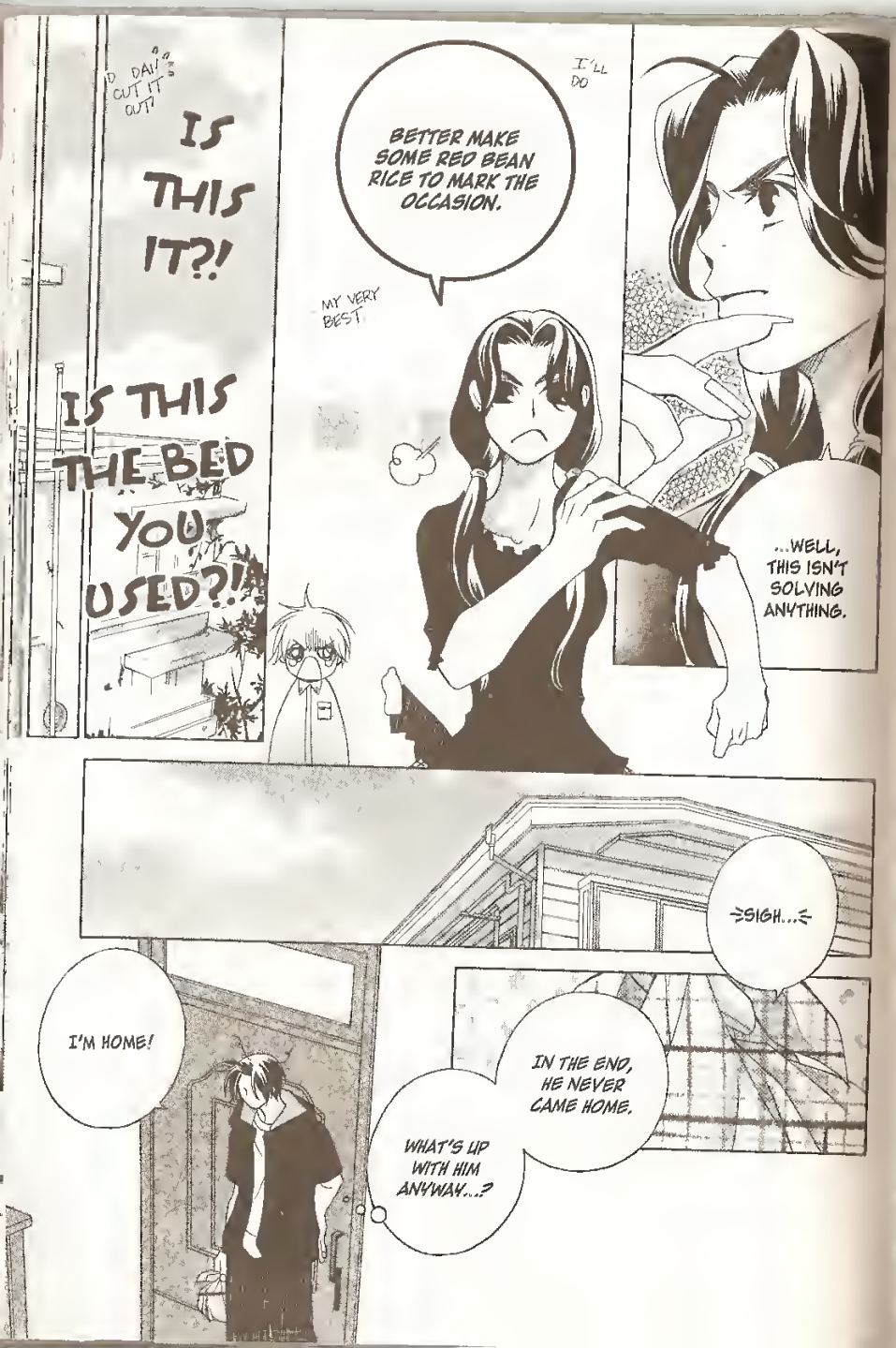

うWAAAAAH
わぁぁあ
?!
WAS I DUMPED BY KAORU-CHAN?!
ぉん


LUCKY NOTHING— THIS IS WEIRD!
WHEN DID HE TAKE THESE?
YOU'RE IN ALL OF THEM, DAI-CHAN.
L...LUCKY YOU...
THEY'RE GOOD PHOTOS.
WHY? YOU ALWAYS WANTED HIM TO TAKE YOUR PHOTO.
CONFLICTED


OH, IT'S JUST DAISUKE.
OH— IT'S YOU, DAI-CHAN...

WH—
NO REASON...
WHY ARE YOU GUYS SO DISAPPOINTED IT'S ME?!
DUNNO.
OH FORGET IT, WHERE'S KAORU-CHAN?!


BAM
KAORU-CHAN!


NO DAI! CUT IT OUT!
IS THIS IT?!
IS THIS THE BED YOU USED?!
BETTER MAKE SOME RED BEAN RICE TO MARK THE OCCASION.
I'LL DO
MY VERY BEST
...WELL, THIS ISN'T SOLVING ANYTHING.
=SIGH...=
I'M HOME!
IN THE END, HE NEVER CAME HOME.
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM ANYWAY...?

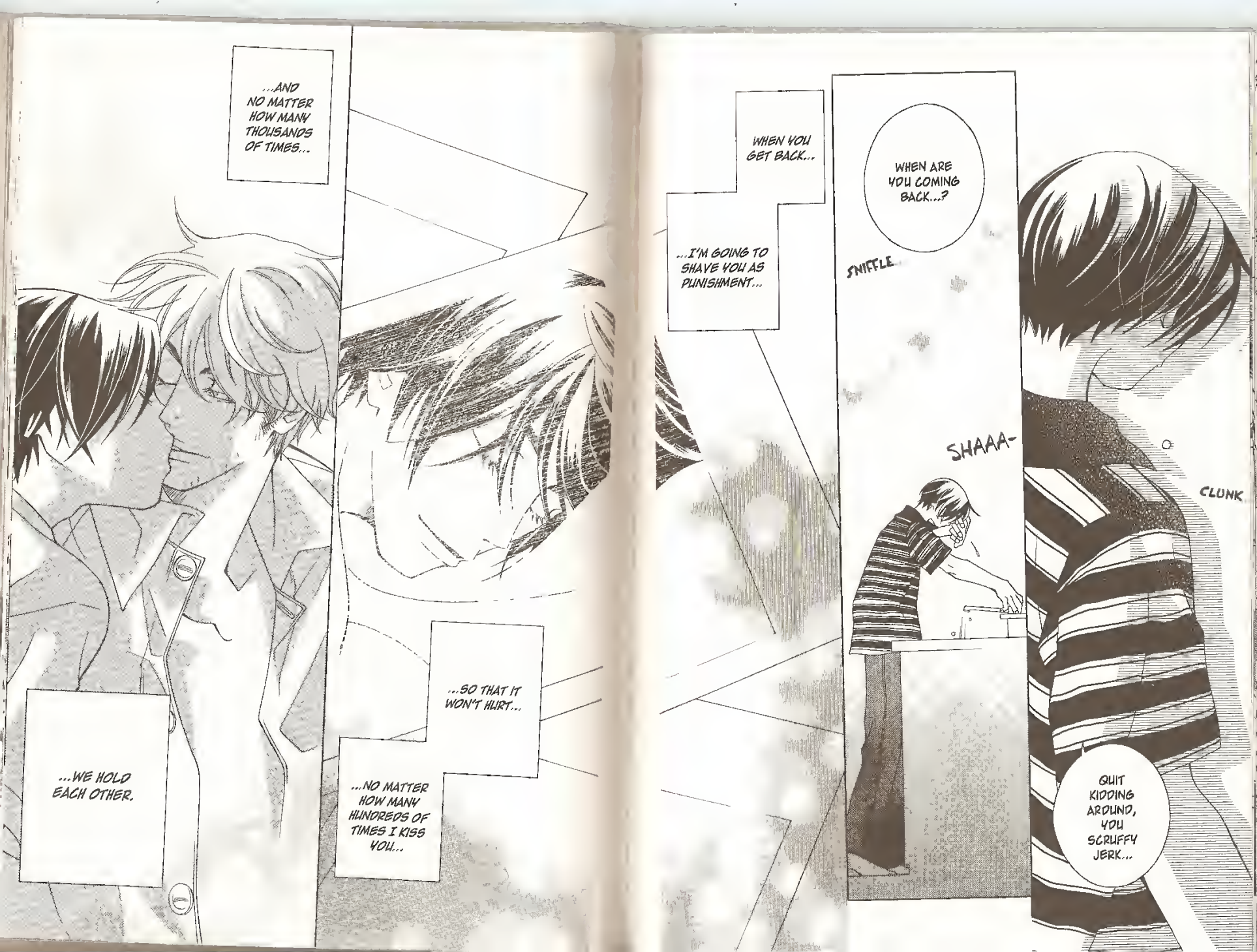
NOT ONLY THAT...
GLARE
I CAN'T ASK HIM ANYMORE!
THAT'S WHY IT'S STRANGE!
HIC
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BEGGED HIM, HE NEVER WOULD...
BUT NOW THAT HE'S GIVEN ME THESE...
HIC
HIC
WAAAAAH
BLUSH
THIS ROOM...
SMELLS LIKE CUM!!!

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP!!
AKIRA? WHAT IS THIS...?!
RED BEAN RICE! YOU CAN HAVE IT!
OH, BUT...
HE WAS IN A HURRY, SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A PLANE TO CATCH...
IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS GOING ON A TRIP OR SOMETHI—
WHUMP
WHOA?!
BAM!
TO MY DEAR AKIRA TOGAWA...
MOTHER
RED BEAN RICE
I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN, BUT I'M GOING ON A PHOTOGRAPHY JAUNT.

?
OH—
WELCOME BACK. YOU'RE LATE.
HUH?
HERE.
NAKAHARA-SAN ASKED ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU, AKIRA.
HE CAME HERE?! WHEN?! WHAT'S THIS?!
EARLY THIS MORNING...
WHAT FOR?!
DON'T ASK ME... I DON'T KNOW

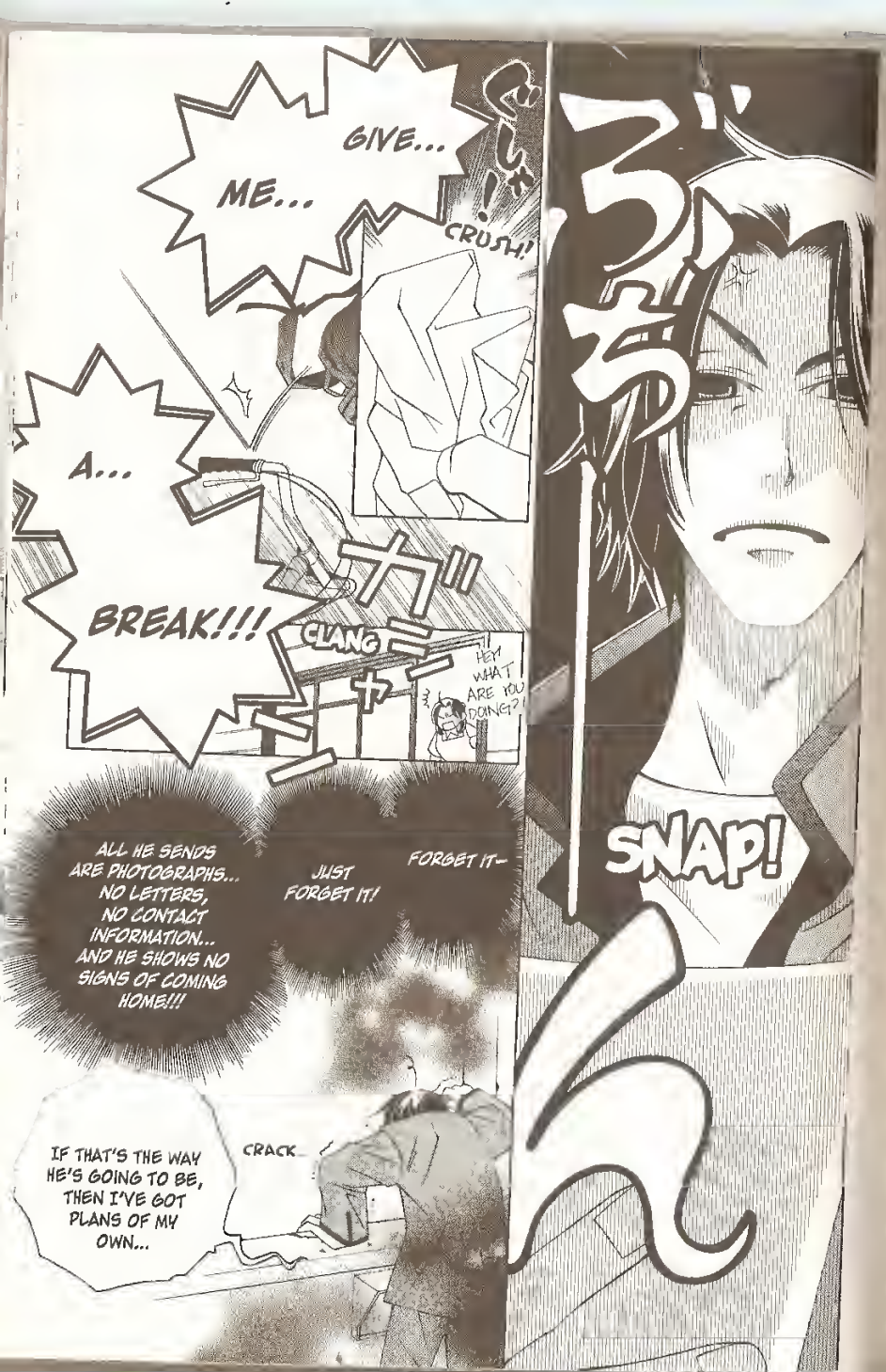
HOW TO USE THE DARKROOM
THINGS TO PREPARE:
DRIP...
WHAT...
...IS HE THINKING...?

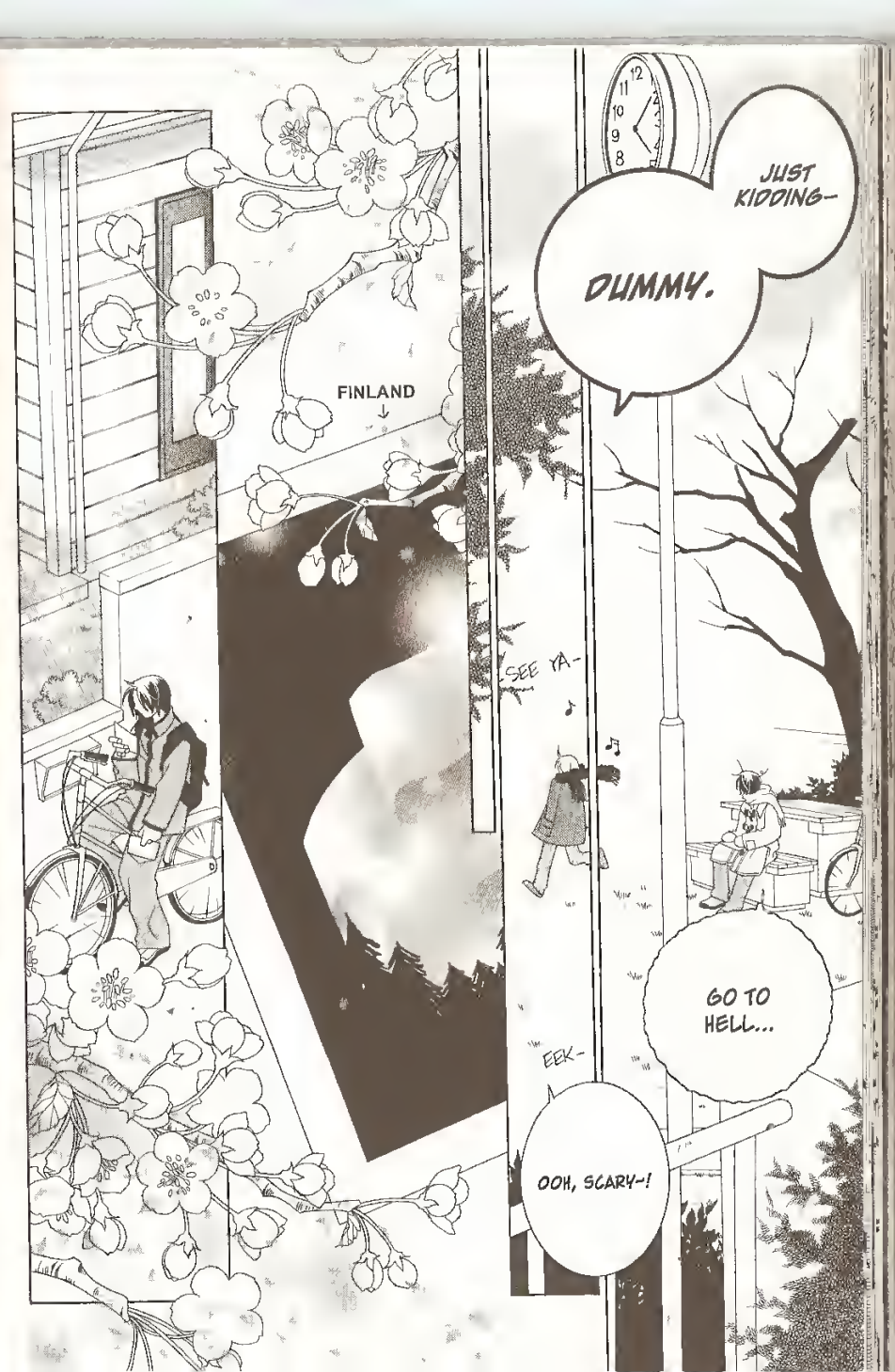
I'M LEAVING YOU THIS HOSTAGE...
SO PLEASE LOOK AFTER MY APARTMENT FOR ME.
THAT'S ALL?!
I'VE ALREADY PAID THE RENT IN ADVANCE.
LOOK AFTER HIS PLACE?!
WHAT, IS HE KIDDING?! AND THIS "HOSTAGE"?
FLUTTER!
I'LL SELL IT OFF TO—
...?


...AND NO MATTER HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF TIMES...
...WE HOLD EACH OTHER.
...SO THAT IT WON'T HURT...
...NO MATTER HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF TIMES I KISS YOU...
WHEN YOU GET BACK...
...I'M GOING TO SHAVE YOU AS PUNISHMENT...
WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK...?
SNIFFLE
SHAAA-
CLUNK
QUIT KIDDING AROUND, YOU SCRUFFY JERK...

FURTHER AWAY!
IS HE REALLY EVER GOING TO COME BACK?!
HE'S GETTING...
BEFORE THAT, IT WAS THAILAND!
AND BEFORE THAT, VIETNAM...
...WAIT A MINUTE.
MAYBE NOT.
BUT WHAT THEN?
WOULD YOU LET ME HAVE HIM?
SMIRK

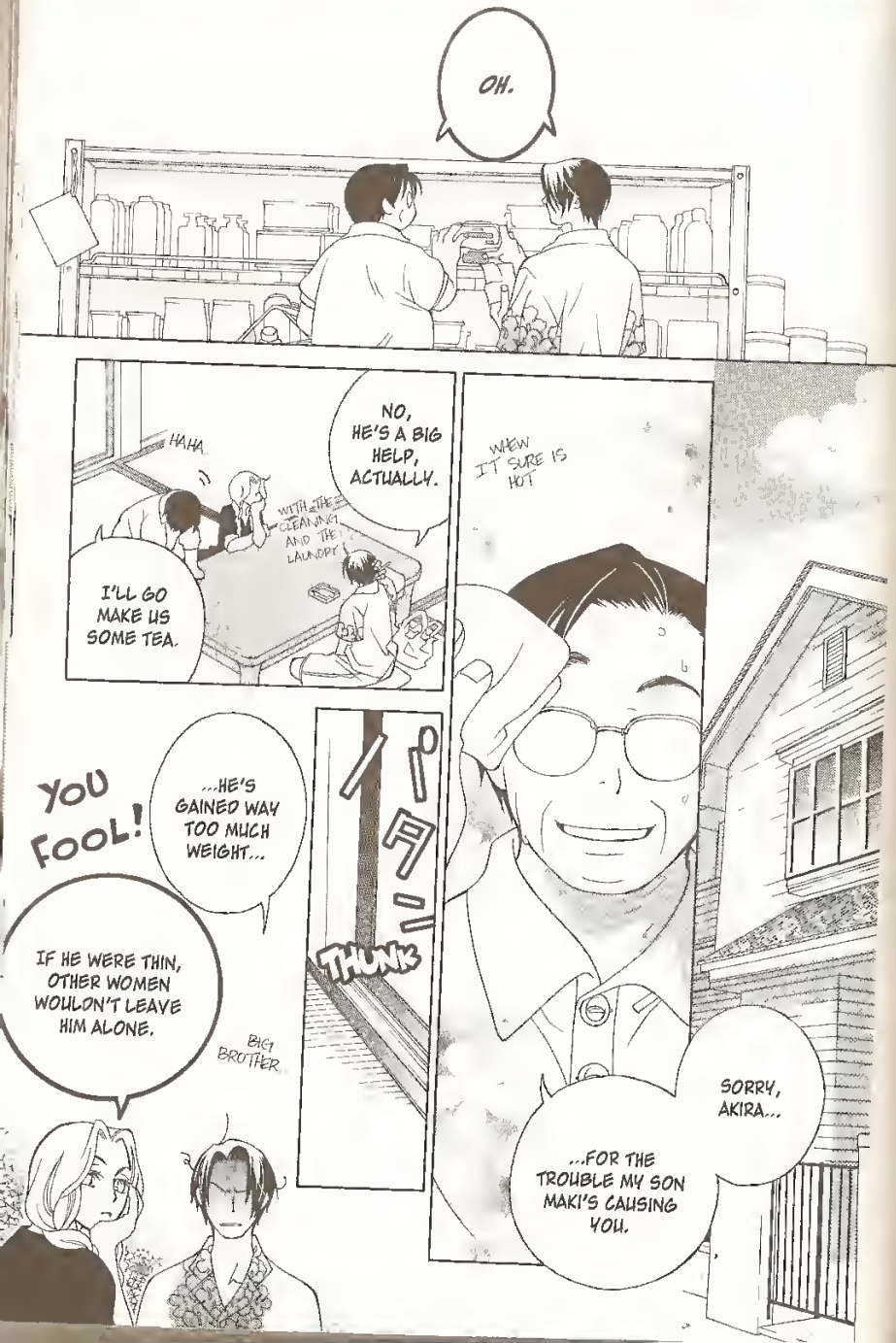
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU...
HUH?!
IT SEEMS TO BE RUMANIA.
THE COUNTRY IN THAT PHOTO.
WHERE THE HECK IS "RUMANIA" ANYWAY?
WHAT?
BUT THE PHOTO WE GOT THE MONTH BEFORE—
...IT WAS FROM PARIS!

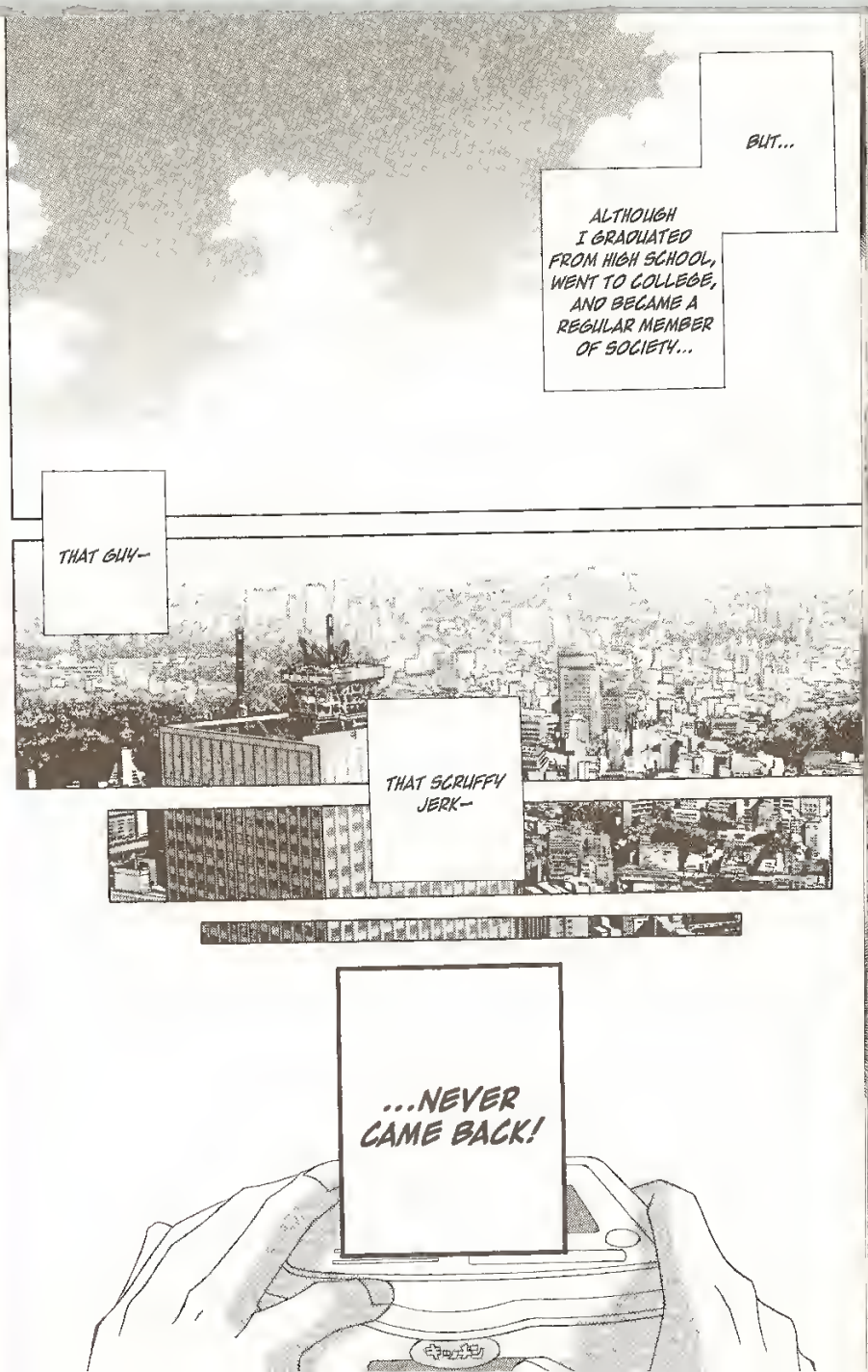

GIVE...
ME...
CRUSH!
A...
BREAK!!!
CLANG
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SNAP!
ALL HE SENDS ARE PHOTOGRAPHS... NO LETTERS, NO CONTACT INFORMATION... AND HE SHOWS NO SIGNS OF COMING HOME!!!
JUST FORGET IT!
FORGET IT-
IF THAT'S THE WAY HE'S GOING TO BE, THEN I'VE GOT PLANS OF MY OWN...
CRACK-


FINLAND
JUST KIDDING-
DUMMY.
SEE YA-
GO TO HELL...
EEK-
OOH, SCARY-!

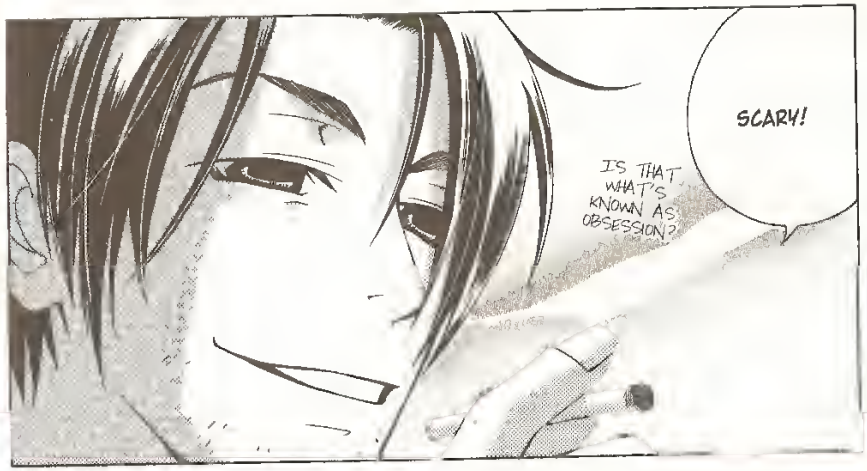
HURRY UP AND COME HOME...
KAORU NAKAHARA!!!
BONK
YOU'RE DISTURBING THE NEIGHBORS!!!

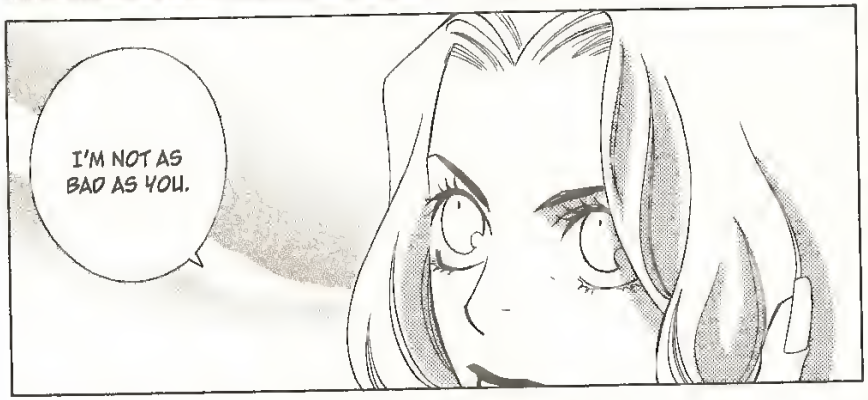
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT-
I'M GONNA FIND A NEW LOVE-
OR RATHER...
INHALE-
LOTS OF NEW LOVES-
AND I'M GONNA BE IN AND OUT OF BED WITH ALL OF THEM!!!

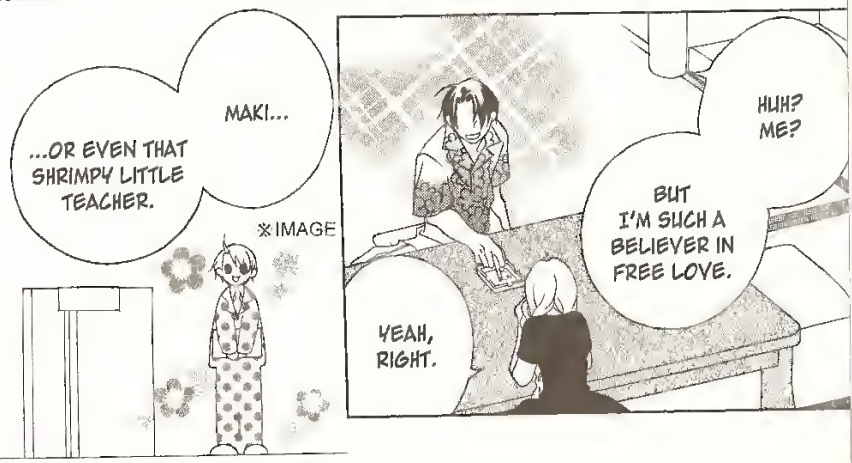

OH.
HAHA
WITH THE CLEANING AND THE LAUNDRY
I'LL GO MAKE US SOME TEA.
NO, HE'S A BIG HELP, ACTUALLY.
WHEW IT SURE IS HOT
YOU FOOL!
...HE'S GAINED WAY TOO MUCH WEIGHT...
IF HE WERE THIN, OTHER WOMEN WOULDN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE.
BIG BROTHER
ピンポーン
THUNK
...FOR THE TROUBLE MY SON MAKI'S CAUSING YOU.
SORRY, AKIRA...

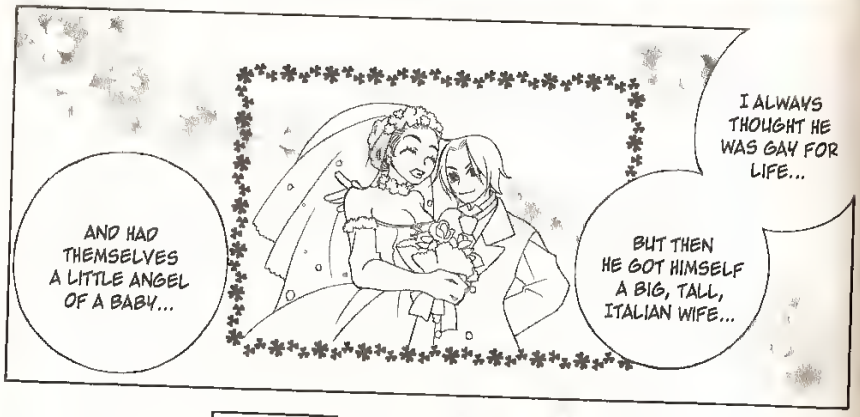

BUT...
ALTHOUGH I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, WENT TO COLLEGE, AND BECAME A REGULAR MEMBER OF SOCIETY...
THAT GUY—
THAT SCRUFFY JERK—
...NEVER CAME BACK!

THE REASON YOU SPOUT ALL THIS NONSENSE ABOUT LOVE TOWARD BOYS NO MORE THAN CHILDREN....
...IS BECAUSE YOU KNOW YOU HAVE NO FUTURE WITH THEM.
HOW RUDE... I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, I'M ALWAYS SERIOUS ABOUT LOVE.
PROBABLY EVEN WAY BACK THEN...
ALL THE WAY UP TO THE PRESENT.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO CRY ABOUT IT, DON'T CRUMPLE IT UP IN THE FIRST PLACE!
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN SERIOUS ABOUT ANY OF THEM.

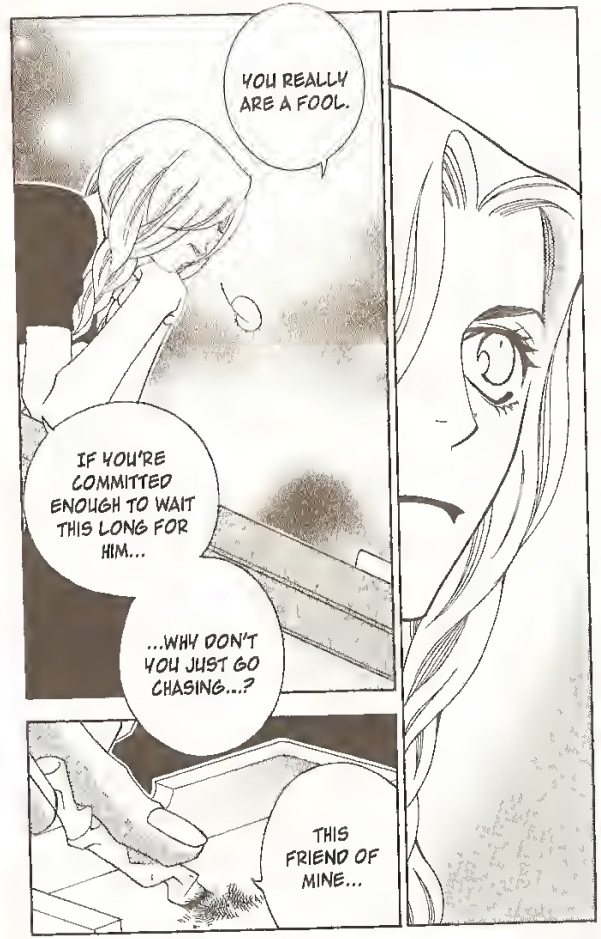

SCARY!
IS THAT WHAT'S KNOWN AS OBSESSION?

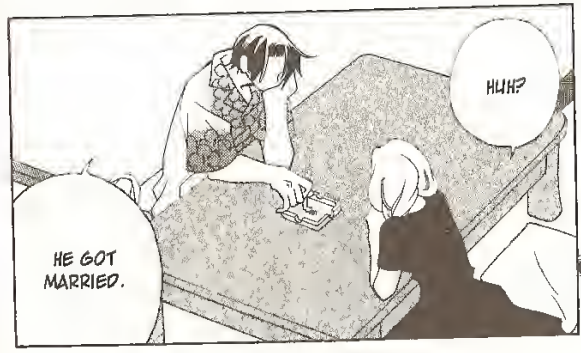

I'M NOT AS BAD AS YOU.


MAKI...
...OR EVEN THAT SHRIMPY LITTLE TEACHER.
※IMAGE
HUH? ME?
BUT I'M SUCH A BELIEVER IN FREE LOVE.
YEAH, RIGHT.


I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS GAY FOR LIFE...
BUT THEN HE GOT HIMSELF A BIG, TALL, ITALIAN WIFE...
AND HAD THEMSELVES A LITTLE ANGEL OF A BABY...

WELL...
I'M HOME!
HEH HEH...
HE SAYS NOW HE'S GOING TO MAKE HIS KID INTO A MODEL.
...WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
OH, DO WE HAVE GUESTS?
WELCOME BACK DID YOU HAVE FUN AT THE POOL?
OKAAAY.
MAKE SURE YOU SAY HELLO
YEAH, HE'S MY LITTLE BROTHER!
I JUST THOUGHT...
...I'D LET YOU IN ON IT.

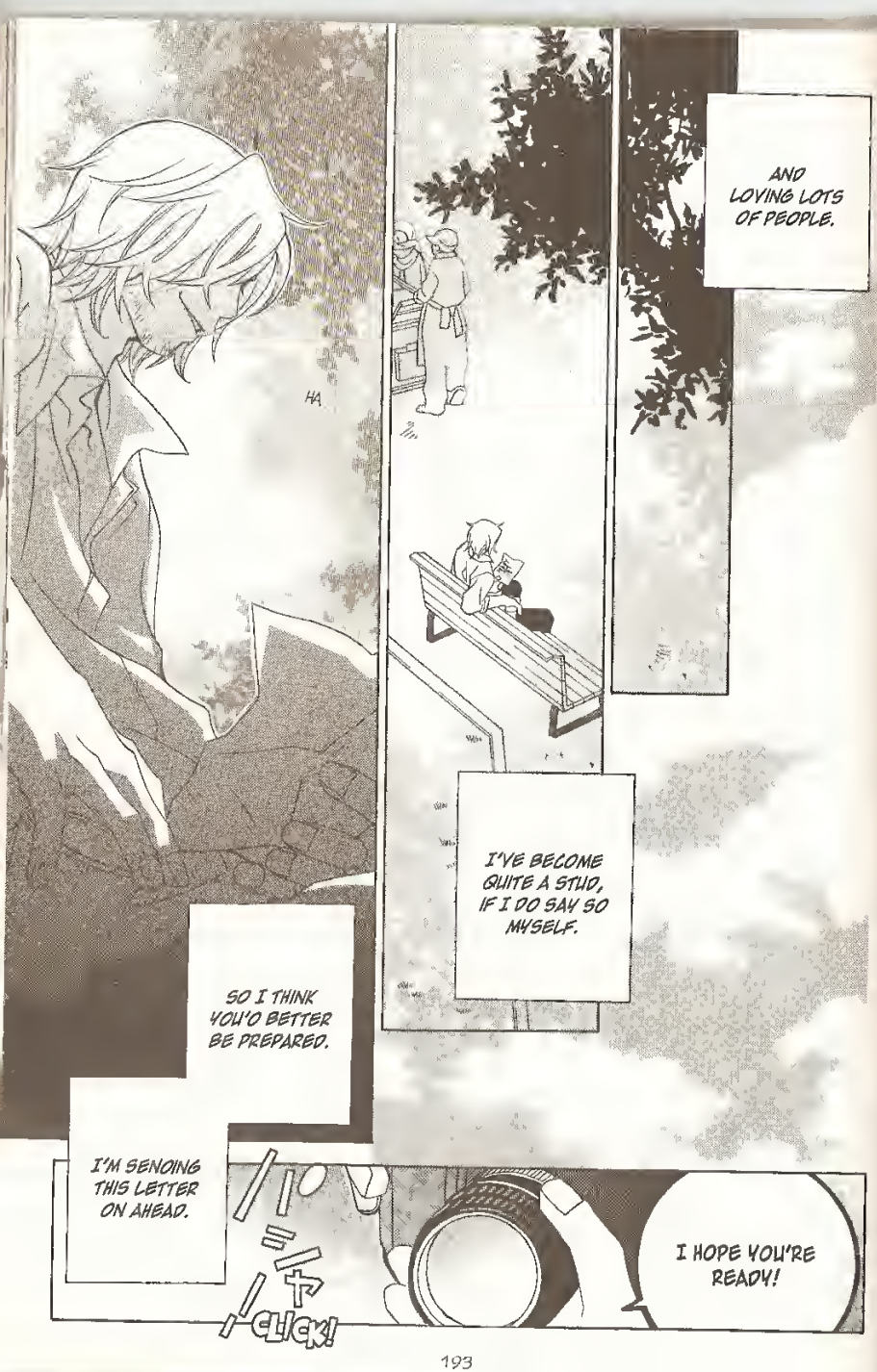

YOU REALLY ARE A FOOL.
IF YOU'RE COMMITTED ENOUGH TO WAIT THIS LONG FOR HIM...
...WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO CHASING...?
THIS FRIEND OF MINE...

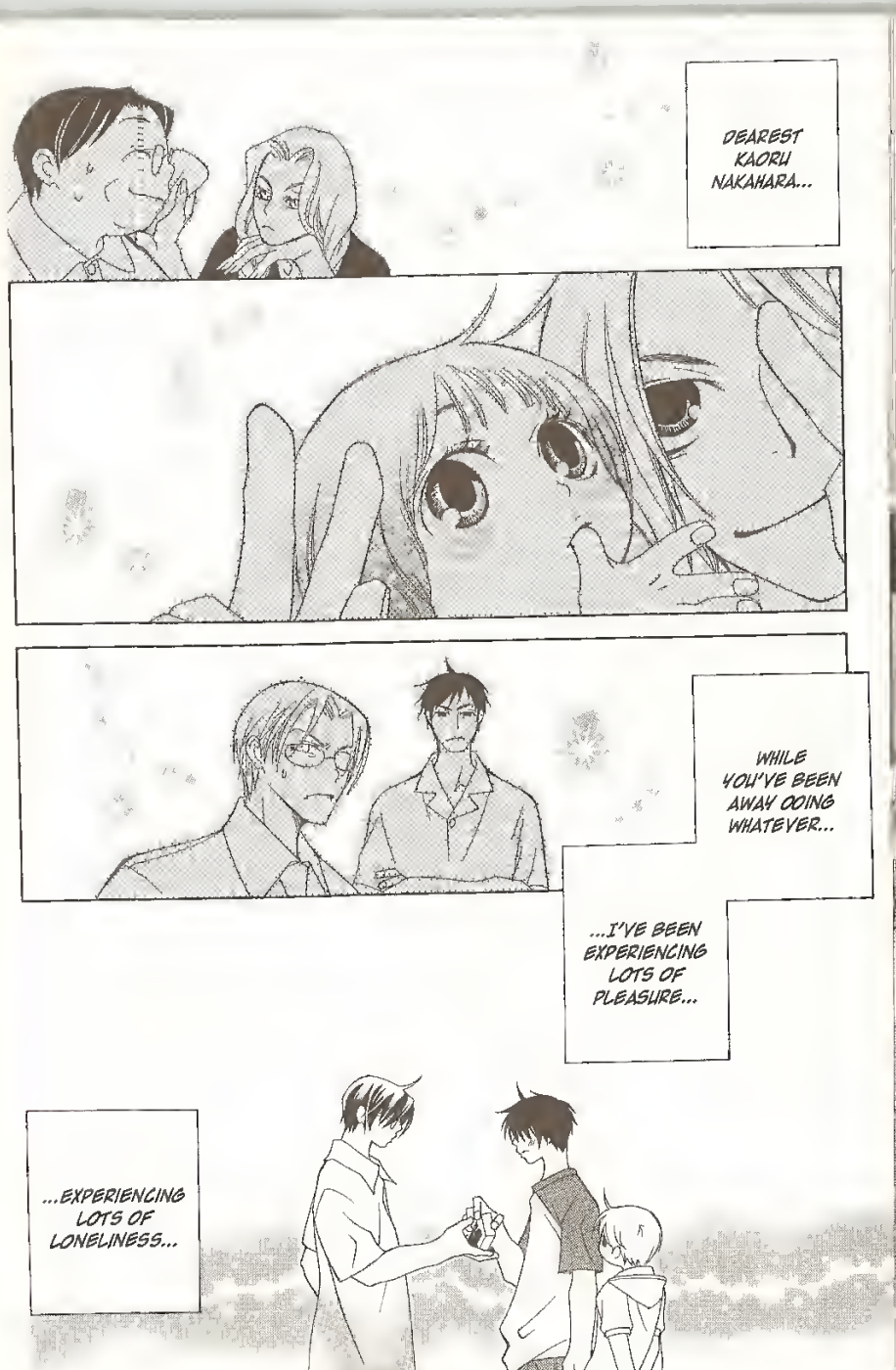

HUH?
HE GOT MARRIED.

IT'S JUST THAT HE'S SPECIAL.

I WONDER IF HE'S CHASING AFTER SOME KID AGAIN
MAN, HE'S LATE...
THAT UNCLE TOGAWA...
花
SOMETHING'S SCRIBBLED HERE...
Ueda-Sik No 18, Sultanahmet, Turkey
...
NO, IT MUST BE A FOREIGN ADDRESS...
PROBABLY I THINK
種
...
...
MAKI'S BRAIN IN OVERDRIVE
...
...

HUH... IT'S PRETTY.
花
I WONDER WHERE THIS IS...?
SOMEWHERE FOREIGN...
HM?
I'M...
...GONNA GO TO TURKEY.

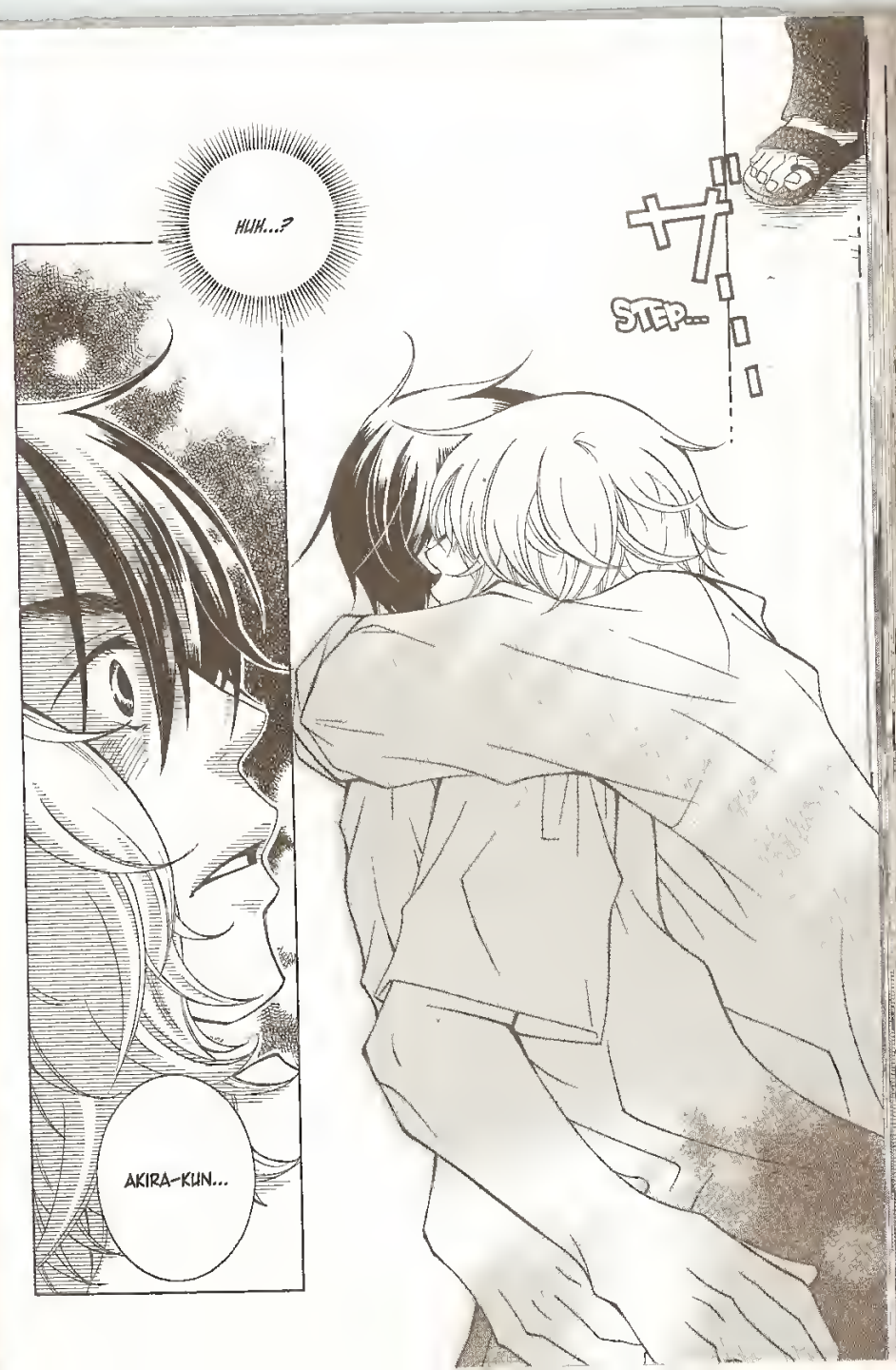

AND LOVING LOTS OF PEOPLE.
HA
I'VE BECOME QUITE A STUD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
SO I THINK YOU'O BETTER BE PREPARED.
I'M SENOING THIS LETTER ON AHEAD.
I HOPE YOU'RE READY!
CLICK!

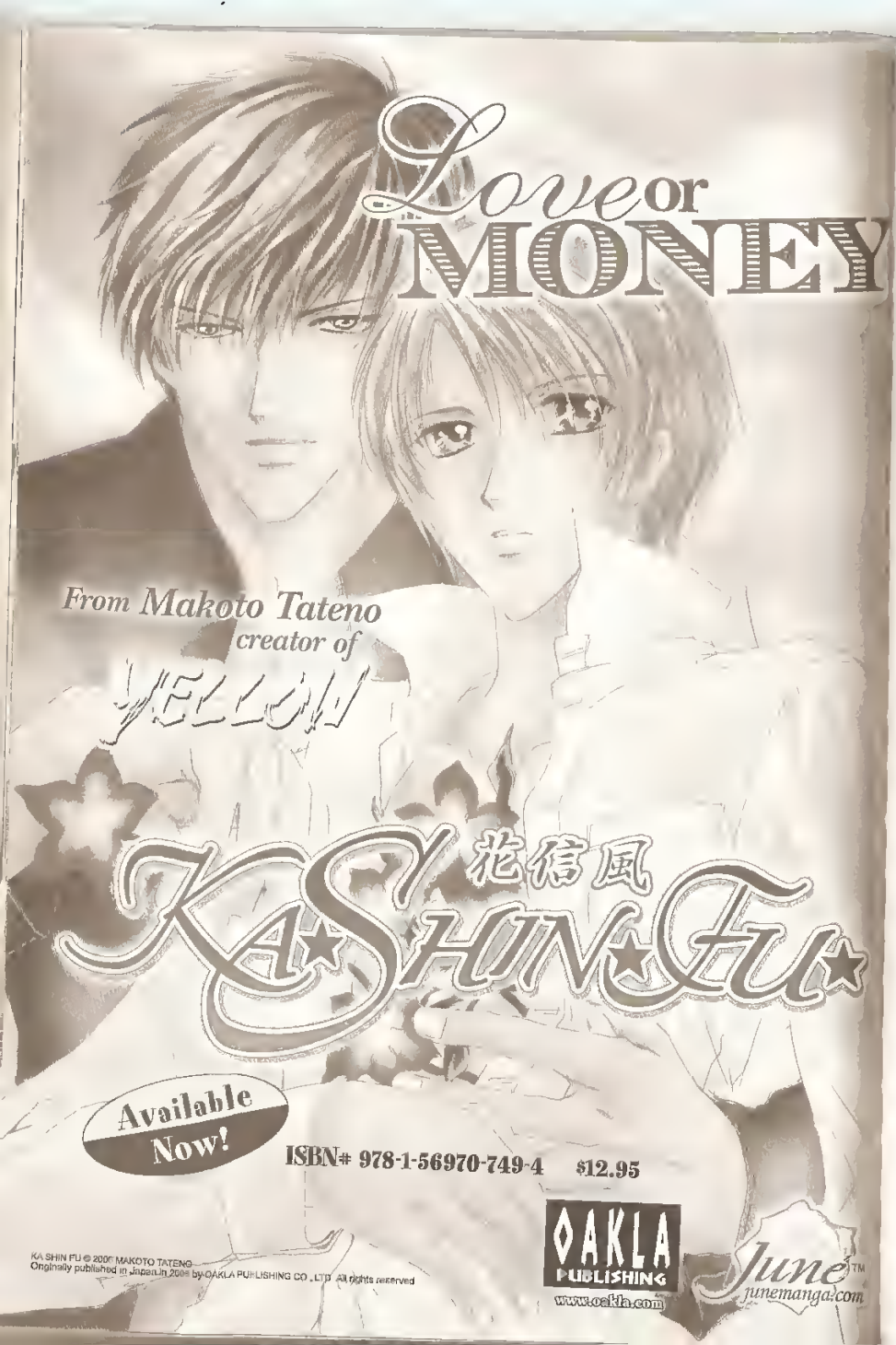

DEAREST KAORU NAKAHARA...
WHILE YOU'VE BEEN AWAY OOING WHATEVER...
...I'VE BEEN EXPERIENCING LOTS OF PLEASURE...
...EXPERIENCING LOTS OF LONELINESS...

EPILOGUE MANGA

End Shot.

GRRRRROWL...
FEED ME...
HUH...?
HUH?
Doooom!
I DROPPED MY WALLET YESTERDAY
I'M REALLY IN TROUBLE HERE!
I LOVE YOU, AKIRA-KUN!
WAIT WAIT!
RATTLE RATTLE
I'M GOING HOME!
HM?
SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME?
I'M GOING HOME!!!
FEED ME?
THE END


HUH...?
AKIRA-KUN...
STEP...



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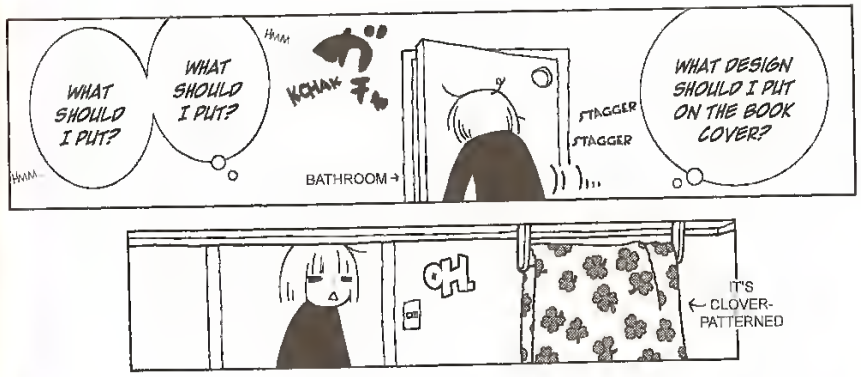
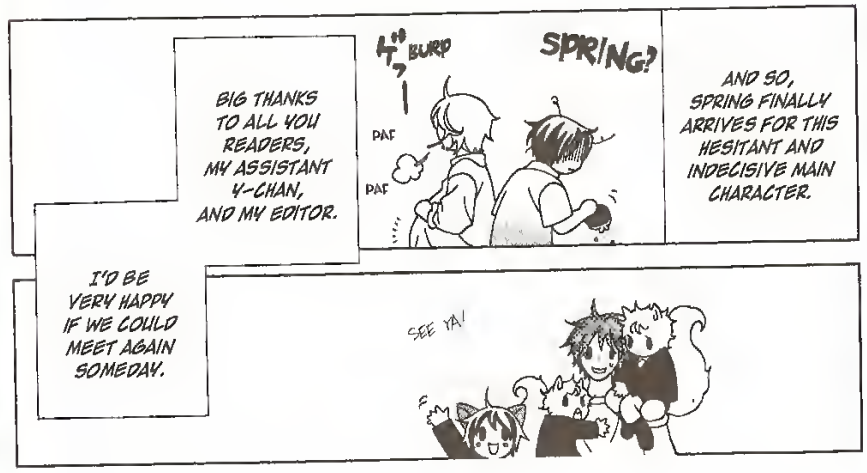
Afterword




BIG THANKS TO ALL YOU READERS, MY ASSISTANT Y-CHAN, AND MY EDITOR.
HUH? BURP
SPRING?
PAF
PAF
AND SO, SPRING FINALLY ARRIVES FOR THIS HESITANT AND INDECISIVE MAIN CHARACTER.
I'D BE VERY HAPPY IF WE COULD MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY.
SEE YA!